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A Prettier PLAZA

Queens Plaza to become 'an incredible
green gateway' in 2010

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(photo by Willow Belden; design Ella Jipescu)



RE-INVENTING THE POWER GRID

Queens pilot program aims
to make electricity cheaper,
more reliable

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SUNDAYS ON THE RIVER WITH PADDLES

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(photo by)

QUEENS' LARGEST WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

Re-inventing the power grid

Queens pilot program aims to make electricity cheaper, more reliable

by Willow Belden
Assistant Editor

It's 4:30 p.m. on a hot summer day, and you'll soon be leaving work. Before heading out of the office, you go online and turn on your home air conditioner with the click of a mouse so that when you get to your place, it's already cool.

The technology to do that isn't available to consumers just yet, but Con Edison says it's on the horizon, and the utility is laying the groundwork with a pilot "smart grid" program in western Queens.

A smart grid incorporates information and communication technology into the electric system so that customers — and the utility — can track how much power they are using at any given time. That makes it easier for consumers to adjust their energy usage to save money, and means the power company knows exactly how much electricity to send to given neighborhoods at different times so it doesn't have to guess and risk falling short or wasting energy.

In the coming weeks, some 1,500 "smart meters" will be installed in houses, apartments and businesses in Astoria, Long Island City, Sunnyside and Woodside — areas which were hit with a 10-day power outage three years ago. If the pilot program is successful — i.e., if customers save money, if less electricity is wasted and if overall operations run smoothly — Con Ed says it hopes to expand the grid to other parts of Queens and perhaps eventually the whole city.

"Now, the Con Edison meter at your house

basically just accumulates how much energy you've used over the course of a month," CEO and Chairman Kevin Burke said. "These new meters would know how much you're using on an hourly or even a half-hourly basis."

Electricity can cost up to four times as much during peak hours as it costs at night, Burke said, so being able to track usage at different times of day will help customers save money.

In addition to having smart meters installed, about 300 customers will receive devices that can monitor how much power individual appliances use. Burke said this should prompt people to unplug power-guzzling devices when not in use.

The smart grid isn't just about providing energy users with more information, though; the power company will also instantly be notified when outages occur, so it won't have to wait for calls from disgruntled customers to fix problems. And it will help the utility pinpoint the source of problems more accurately and quickly.

Burke said the massive outages three years ago probably wouldn't have lasted as long with a smart grid, because the system "would have provided a lot more information to us early on in the process to better assess the condition and be able to respond and help the customers out sooner than we had."

Councilman Eric Gioia (D-Sunnyside), who has been calling for a smart grid, applauded the news.

"The 2006 blackout showed that Con Ed's

continued on page 21



Some customers participating in Con Ed's "smart grid" pilot program will receive devices like these, which can monitor how much energy individual appliances use and track power consumption on an hourly basis.
(photo by Willow Belden)



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Queens Plaza makeover begins

Gateway to L.I.C. to become green and pedestrian-friendly in 2010

by Willow Belden
Assistant Editor

After years of talk, a project aimed at beautifying Queens Plaza is getting underway.

Monday marked the official groundbreaking for the \$76 million endeavor, which involves redirecting traffic, planting trees, installing outdoor seating and making the area around the entrance to the Queensborough Bridge more hospitable to pedestrians and cyclists.

Until now, Queens Plaza — which extends from the bridge to Northern Boulevard — has been a jumbled maze of bumpy streets, messy intersections, pot-hole-ridden pavement and screeching elevated subways. When the project is completed, which officials say should be in late 2010, the traffic network will be realigned, trees will line the roadways, landscaped medians will afford passers-by a place to sit and bike paths and pedestrian walkways will snake their way through greenery.

"This will do more to change the character of Long Island City than any other government investment in a generation," said Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-Queens and Manhattan), who secured nearly \$10 million for the project. "This project will make this community more attractive, accessible and desirable, bringing more people and businesses to this area. Best of all, it will transform Queens Plaza into a welcoming gateway for the greatest city in the world."

The Queens Plaza Streetscape Improvement Project comes in conjunction with the renovation of Jackson Avenue, which began last fall and will leave the street with a landscaped median as well as new sidewalks, lighting and seating. Together, the two projects will bring more than 500 new trees to L.I.C.

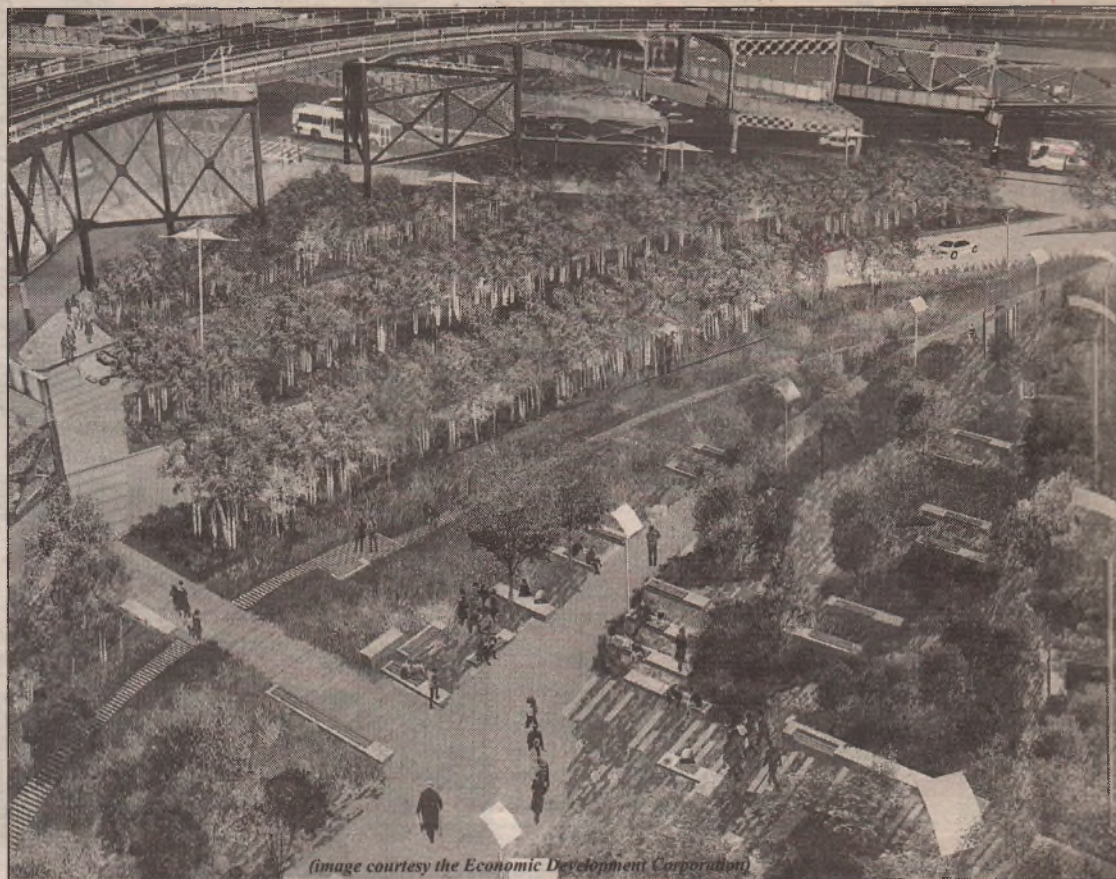
Officials say the streetscape improvements will encourage people to spend time in the neighborhood.

"Long Island City ... has been for many years a place that people have passed through," said Seth Pinsky, president of the city's Economic Development Corporation. About 200,000 motorists pass through the area each day — but they rarely stay. The Queens Plaza and Jackson Avenue projects are meant to make the area "a place that people linger in, a place that people stay in, that they make their homes in and that they start their businesses in," Pinsky said.

City Planning Commissioner Amanda Burden said the plaza will be transformed into "an incredible green gateway into the heart of Long Island City." The leafy canopy of trees will help muffle noise from traffic and trains, Burden said, and "will be a cool place to sit and reflect, ... provide shade and lots of plentiful seating to take a break during lunch."

While most agree that Queens Plaza in its current manifestation isn't much to brag about, some think the renovation project is not the best use of city funds. One L.I.C. resident who attended the groundbreaking on Monday said he doubts Queens Plaza will become tranquil, given that cars and subways will still clatter by. He said he would rather see new green space a few blocks away in an area further removed from the din.

The Queens Plaza project is getting more than \$30 million in federal stimulus funding, with the city and other federal programs footing the remainder of the bill. The project is expected to create more than 1,700 construction jobs.



(image courtesy the Economic Development Corporation)



A \$76 million infrastructure project aims to transform Queens Plaza from a jumble of bumpy streets and messy intersections, above, to a tranquil area with trees, outdoor seating and pedestrian walkways, top. The project officially got underway on Aug. 3 as officials and community leaders broke ground, left.

(photos by Willow Belden)



Mayor responds to allegations of illegal funds

Mayor Mike Bloomberg deflected allegations that his office illegally funneled public funds into two non-profit groups during his visit to Queens on Tuesday.

"Every single one of them went through the vetting process and was totally disclosed," Bloomberg said. "I don't know about the recollection of one councilmember that he didn't ask. The recollection from every person I've talked to is that it was asked and we were doing it in the normal course of business."

Bloomberg insisted that Councilman Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn) had indeed requested the nearly \$1.1 million in discretionary funding for Agudath Israel of America Community Services and nearly \$400,000 for Ohel Children's Home and Family Services.

Felder denied that he requested the funds, according to published reports.

Although council members are allocated discretionary funds for community groups in their district, the mayor is prohibited from using the pool of money.

According to Felder, his name was used to authorize the funding without his consent.

The mayor challenged that statement, claiming Felder's memory was off.

Mayor touts transportation plan

by Michael Lanza
Assistant Editor

Mayor Mike Bloomberg came to Queens on Tuesday to sell his new transportation plan as hundreds of millions of dollars were allocated to the city for various infrastructure projects.

Bloomberg joined local civic leaders at the Glendale Diner where he discussed his new transportation strategy, a plan announced earlier this week in his bid for a third term.

"The whole economy is dependent on people being able to go where they wanna go," Bloomberg said. "It's quality of life. Who wants to sit around in a traffic jam or sit around waiting to get on a bus."

Bloomberg described the plan as a roadmap for comprehensive reform of the city's transportation network in all of its forms. The plan includes ideas to improve traffic flow, expand ferry service, restore railroad and subway stops and improve bus service.

The mayor said he would restore closed Long Island Rail Road stations in Glendale, Richmond Hill and Elmhurst. The plan would also include an expansion of the LIRR's City Ticket program, which would allow rush hour commuters to take advantage of deeply discounted rates that were previously available only on weekends.

The plan also calls for the installation of gateless tolls on the city's East River bridges and tunnels, including all of Queens' spans into the Bronx and Manhattan. He touted the new tolling system as a relatively simple way to improve traffic



Mayor Mike Bloomberg discusses transit at the Glendale Diner.

(photo by Michael Lanza)

flow and reduce emissions in communities close to the city's bridges.

The mayor called for expanding ferry services into facilities in Long Island City and parts of Brooklyn. And in order to improve ferry ridership, he would seek to integrate ferry service with the city's bus and subway systems — allowing commuters to use their Metrocards on the new ferries.

Another plan for Queens includes the implementation of a commuter van service

in neighborhoods underserved by mass transit, citing Bayside as an example. He said the city would contract private companies to provide routes through the neighborhoods.

The transit reform plan came as the city received millions in state and federal funding for transportation and infrastructure — including nearly \$600 million to renovate the Jamaica transit hub and \$50 million for ferry service.

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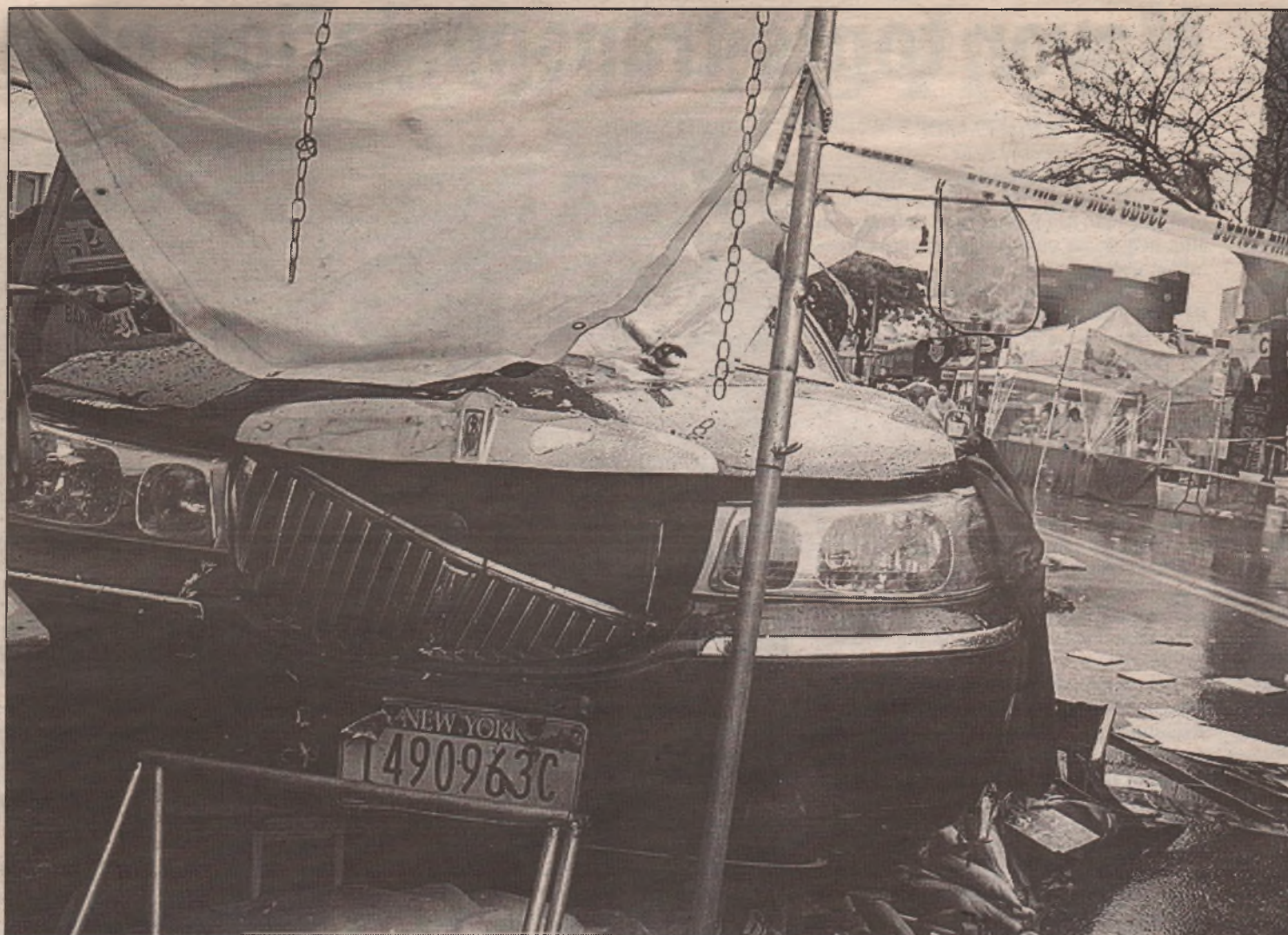


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Car crash disrupts Ecuadorian festival in Jackson Heights

Five people were hospitalized and several more sustained minor injuries after a driver lost control of his livery cab and plowed into a booth at an Ecuadorian festival in Jackson Heights on Sunday.

The accident occurred around 1 p.m. near the corner of Junction Boulevard and 37th Avenue, where various food tents were set up for the street fair. Several people suffered burns.

Four of the five people who were sent to Elmhurst Hospital were treated and released, while the fifth was transferred to the burn unit at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx.

The driver of the livery cab will not face charges.

(photo by Riyad Hasan)



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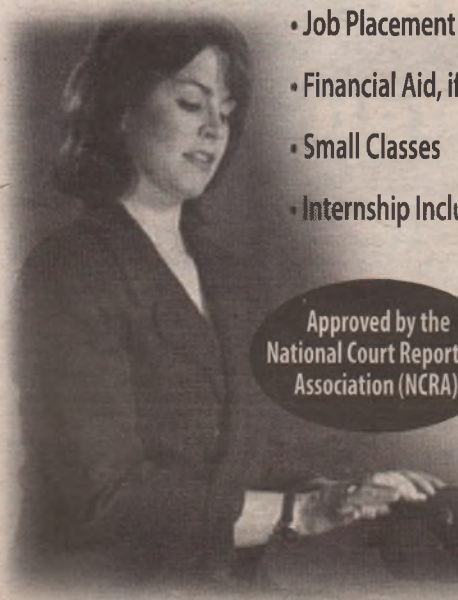
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Drug prices vary vastly

It pays to shop around — big time. That's what a recent study on prescription drug prices, conducted by Councilman Eric Gioia (D-Sunnyside) found.

The study, which examined five of the most commonly prescribed drugs, found price discrepancies of up to 500 percent depending on where a medication is purchased.

The study is a follow-up to Gioia's 2004 and 2006 reports which found enormous variation in prescription drug prices and eventually helped lead to the launch of a state website last year that tracks prescription drug prices. However, a survey of city pharmacies found that the state website

does not accurately reflect retail prices across the five boroughs, and that wide disparities between pharmacies persist.

As a result, Gioia is calling for the state Department of Health to conduct regular audits of prescription drug prices to make sure they accurately reflect the consumer market.

"New Yorkers expect and deserve to know that when they go to the drug store they are getting the best deal possible," Gioia said. "Millions of New Yorkers rely on prescription drugs to live fuller, healthier lives — and they should not have to think twice about getting them because they're being overcharged."

Free job fair at Atlas Park on Aug. 21

State Sen. Joe Addabbo Jr. (D-Howard Beach) announced this week he will host a job fair on Friday, Aug. 21 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at The Shops at Atlas Park, located on Cooper Avenue and 80th Street in Glendale. The fair is free and open to the public. The Q54 bus stops directly outside Atlas Park and free street parking or paid parking on the premises is also available.

As the unemployment rate in New York City soared to 9.3 percent last month, those looking to get back into the job market are encouraged to dress in business attire and bring a surplus of resumes to the fair.

Scheduled workshops include "Ace your Interview" at 10:30 a.m., "Employment Search" at 11:30 a.m., "Resume

Building" at 12:30 p.m. and "Green Jobs Training" at 1:30 p.m.

To date, the following companies have confirmed their attendance with more expected to attend the event: Catholic Charities, City University of New York, New York City Fire Department, Internal Revenue Service, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of New York, Jet Blue, Non-Traditional Employment for Women, America Works, AXA Financial, Delta Airlines, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, HeartsShare Human Services of New York, Counsel for Airport Opportunity, Aflac, New York Families for Autistic Children and Capture GIS.

—Lisa Fogarty

Cold War veterans bill signed into law

Almost one million Cold War veterans will now be eligible to receive real property tax exemptions, thanks to a new bill sponsored by state Sen. Joe Addabbo Jr. (D-Howard Beach) and signed into law by Gov. David Paterson Tuesday.

The legislation will make it possible for municipalities to offer increased property tax exemptions to Cold War vets, who are defined as those servicemen and service-women who served in active duty in the United States armed forces between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991. The time period encompasses World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and Persian Gulf Conflict.

"It is an honor to demonstrate and recognize the respect that is owed to our veterans

and to acknowledge their courageous acts and accomplishments," Addabbo said.

Benefits of the bill include facilitating the procedure by excluding the requirement of a municipality to submit a "home rule" bill, which was previously needed in determining a real property tax exemption. Towns and cities can now legally offer higher property tax exemptions to Cold War veterans and, additionally, cooperative and tenant-stock holders who reside in co-ops can apply for property tax exemptions on their dwellings.

For more information on the new exemptions for Cold War veterans, call Addabbo's office at (718) 738-1111.

—Lisa Fogarty

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EDITORIAL PAGE

On public financing of campaigns

The city's public campaign finance program is designed to encourage more people to run for office — to get new blood into the political system, to allow candidates of moderate means to compete with those who have greater resources and to reduce the influence of special interest groups like developers and unions.

The point is to level the playing field. But we don't believe the system is doing that. There are better ways. Several races in Queens provide the evidence for this.

In City Council districts 19 and 20, the incumbents are running for higher office. District 19's Tony Avella is challenging Comptroller Bill Thompson Jr. in the Democratic primary for mayor, and District 20's John Liu is running for comptroller, facing off against three other council members seeking the Democratic nod. In each of those two districts, there are eight candidates vying for the open seat.

Those races show that Everyman and Everywoman can make a run for office. But it's not because of public financing; it's because there is no longtime incumbent with name recognition and all the other benefits of office at his disposal. The proof lies in nearby District 24, where Jim Gennaro is seeking re-election.

Gennaro challenged state Sen. Frank Padavan last year, and came within a hair's breadth of defeating him. It took months to certify a winner. Thinking that Gennaro might be going to Albany, a slew of candidates threw their hats in the ring for his seat. But when Padavan was declared the winner, and Gennaro signaled his intent to run for re-election to the council, they all dropped out.

It wasn't lack of funding that made them do it; it was the near futility of running against an incumbent who has proven to be a strong vote getter again and again.

The best way to level the playing field would be to reimpose the term limits voters approved twice, which Mayor Mike Bloomberg and the City Council overturned last fall. Limiting officials to two consecutive terms would give new candidates a fairer shot across the board, funding aside.

The public finance system is also ineffective because it's not mandatory. The incredibly wealthy mayor has opted out of the system so he can spend as much of his own money as he wants in the race, and his expenditures dwarf his rivals. They have no hope of catching up financially, which we believe essentially nullifies the entire system.

Conversely, the city is too generous to those who do take

public funding, given the economic situation. Revenues are in decline and spending on city services is being restrained — so why should taxpayers have to give the candidates who opt into the system \$6 for every \$1 in private donations they raise, up to \$175? We'd suggest a reduction to \$4 in public money for every \$1 in private support, or even less.

There are many ways to measure the appeal of a candidate's platform in the arena of ideas that is American politics at its best. How big a crowd does the candidate draw? How many regular citizens are writing letters to the editor supporting him or her? How many are putting lawn signs on their properties?

How much financial backing a candidate is getting is one more indicator of his or her support in the community, as long as the money is not in the form of massive contributions over the legal limits. President Barack Obama's primary run against then-Sen. Hillary Clinton is the perfect example. Clinton had the big donors and was considered the front-runner, but Obama surpassed her with his grassroots support and small private donations. Public financing wasn't a factor. And the presidency is term-limited. In this case, New York could take a lesson from Washington.



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MARK WEIDLER
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Henry Bauer, Theodore E. Regan

Contributors:
Lloyd Carroll, Ronald Marzlock, Reed Richardson

Photographers:
Julie Court, Steve Malecki,
Michael O'Kane, PJ Smith, Theodore Parisienne

Interns:
Victor Epstein, Ashly Luckose, Margaret Teich

Office: 62-33 Woodhaven Blvd.
Reno Park, NY 11374-7769

Phone: (718) 205-8000

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Fax: (718) 205-0150

E-mail: Mailbox@qchron.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Special election!

Dear Editor:

As a resident of the 38th Assembly District I demand a special election to fill this seat ASAP. District 38 deserves to be represented in Albany now. We have been short changed too long. I read with amazement how Mr. Baldeo copied and used the petitions of all the hopeful candidates, mine included ("Candidates address early election rumor," South Queens edition, July 30). He sent them to the governor demanding that the governor not call a special election as soon as possible but to wait until November.

How dare Mr. Baldeo misuse my petitions which were gathered to nominate me a candidate to the Assembly, as a tool to demand that our community not have a representative in Albany for five months or more? How dare Mr. Baldeo assume that my supporters don't want to be represented in Albany when issues such as mayoral control over school governance are not resolved and the 38th District will be left unrepresented if the state Assembly reconvenes in the next coming weeks and months?

The law states that the governor is required to fill vacancies by a special election and that "upon issuance of said Proclamation, the normal process for Special Elections — party nomination by appropriate party committee and independent nominating petitions within 12 days of the proclamation — will be used to place candidates on the ballot."

The law is what it is and it should be obeyed to the fullest degree. If we don't agree with the law we must change it through the Legislature. Having a special election now is not "taking the election out of the hands of the voters," as Mr. Baldeo stated, but rather it is putting the power of a representative of the 38th District in Albany into the hands of the voters as soon as possible. Without this our community is powerless and without any say on matters that might come before the legislature.

The governor did not call a special election to save money. If you look at the spending patterns in Albany, they waste money continuously. But when it comes to preserving our rights to a representative in the Assembly, then the Governor wants to save money!

If this vacancy was for a city-wide position, the law states that an election takes

place within 40 days of a vacancy. With this scenario we would have had our elected Assembly member as early as this week. Our community has been disenfranchised all year — not receiving its share of Assembly member items and not receiving the full attention of our assemblyman. Every resident of the other 149 assembly districts across the state have an elected assembly member representing them in Albany. Who are we to call if we have an issue over the next few months? Ghostbusters?

This is the real world. The 38th District needs someone who has the constituents' best interest in mind — not their own self interests. For that matter, so does our state.

Donna Marie Caltabiano
Candidate for Assembly 38th District
Woodhaven

TV conspiracy theory

Dear Editor:

Thank you Charles LeTan for your very sound and well expressed letter. "Digital TV 'Scam'" (July 23).

Digital sounded so simple when the FCC started their buzz. You bet I was ready with my digital box but was the

FCC? Many neighbors and friends spent hundreds and had to wind up with cable. Digital is a conspiracy.

Irene Turner
Flushing

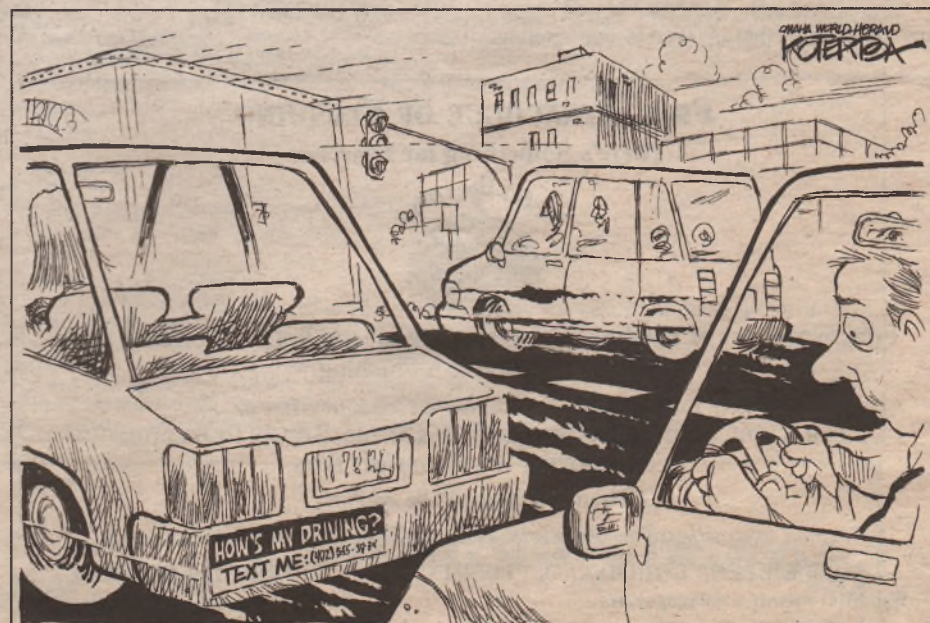
No federal healthcare

Dear Editor:

Where in our United States Constitution does it state that the federal government can be involved in health care? The federal government's powers are very limited. Our health care system is one of the best in the world. It has become expensive due to government regulations and inflation. The federal government causes inflation by printing money that has no gold or silver backing and this causes a deficit which causes prices to rise. In addition, the U.S. taxpayer will have to pay for this program through higher taxes.

No one should be forced to have health care. If the federal government would get back to the size that it is supposed to be according to the U.S. Constitution, the free market can regulate prices and everyone can afford health care, if they want it.

Janet McCarthy
Flushing





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Against Weprin

Dear Editor:

There are two sides to every story, as in "Weprin: My experience is key in comptroller race" (by Peter C. Mastroianni, July 30) concerning the merits of New York City Council Finance Committee Chairman David Weprin becoming the next city comptroller. Take a trip down memory lane for some of his less visionary ideas and past positions which he neglected to mention.

What Weprin fails to discuss is that under his watch, from 2002 to today, the city budget grew from \$43 to \$59 billion, consistently rising above the rate of inflation. He lacked the courage to propose automatically adopting last year's budget and spending levels. There was no real fiscal reform restricting spending below the rate of inflation or adopting pay-as-you go financing.

The city's municipal debt was \$43 billion in 2001. Between 2001 and 2009, municipal debt increased by \$16 billion to an anticipated \$59 billion. Each resident's portion of this debt went up by \$1,853 from \$5,300 to \$7,153. The per resident capital debt of \$7,153 makes the Big Apple number one nationally. Each year a greater percentage of the NYC budget goes toward debt payments rather than funding current badly needed essential services such as police, fire, sanitation, education and other social services. Weprin has never developed any plans to reduce long-term debt.

Weprin is proud of his role in giving out several hundred million dollars worth of pork barrel projects yearly. He proudly accepts the title of "King of Pork" from the Gotham Gazette for having the greatest number and dollar value of member item pork barrel spending.

Weprin played a significant role in giving out a \$400 tax rebate to homeowners. Intelligent taxpayers will remember that at the same time, he voted to take most of this back via a 7 percent property tax increase. This is reminiscent of the financial shenanigans under the late Mayor Abe Beame who placed the city on the verge of bankruptcy in 1976.

Weprin failed to prepare for today's lean times due to economic recession and declining Wall Street tax revenues. He also is opposed to WalMart opening any stores within the five boroughs. This hurts consumers looking for both employment and savings.

Does all of this really qualify him to become the next NYC Comptroller?

Larry Penner
Great Neck, L.I.

Carelessness and pets

Dear Editor:

It's so sad to hear about Marty Schare's experience on boarding his parrot ("Pet boarding can be risky," Letters, July 30). I hope he plans to sue them for their negligence over the bird's death.

My cousin has an African grey parrot, and I understand these birds most times outlive their owners. I go to her house when she is away to feed him. Birds probably do not like to be taken out of their environment, just as cats do not like change. Sometimes it is worth it to have, or even pay, someone reliable to care for pets at your home in their familiar environment. Imagine how frightened the bird was and for how long.

Unfortunately, nowadays there are far too

many inexperienced and insensitive people working in the public environment. I can recall countless times shopping where teens work who do not pay attention and are busy talking to their friends. One time I got two cases of cat food for the cost of one, because the airhead did not know that 24 cans came in a case and charged me for 12. When I say something, they look at me as if I'm stupid. They must be costing these stores money. So, Marty, sue their pants off. Let these people learn from their actions.

F. Petito
Howard Beach

Muslim holidays and 9/11

Dear Editor:

I'm outraged by the City Council's decision to incorporate Muslim holidays into the school calendar ("Closing schools for two Muslim holidays?" July 23). I would rather have a holiday for the day the World Trade buildings were destroyed, killing 3,000 Americans, by Muslims.

Those Muslims who say they were against the Sept. 11 strike, should honor a Sept. 11 holiday together with Americans who are against Muslims killing Americans for hate.

Americans do not have to show their ideals of inclusion and diversity. It is Muslims who need to show their support to America and its principles.

Enough of bowing to every group's request. The City Council shows themselves to be mice.

Gloria Alvand
Whitestone

CORRECTION

The July 30 article "9/11 responder program in limbo" omitted an important point and cited some facts that the head of the program disputes.

The article, which focused in large part on the program's need for continued funding, did not mention pending legislation that would provide it with \$70 million outside of its normal funding stream. Even without new funding, the program could continue through the end of next June, according to Dr. Steven Markowitz, the principal investigator.

The headline's phrase "in limbo" was not accurate since the program continues to operate as it has.

Two statistics provided by the program's medical director were inaccurate. The program has monitored 2,500 people who worked at Ground Zero and is providing treatment to 320, according to Markowitz.

The best phone number to reach the clinic is (718) 670-4174, not the other clinic number that was published.

The proper name of the program is the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program. The Queens Clinical Center is where the program is housed in this borough.

We regret the errors.

Writing Letters

Letters should be no longer than 400 words and should be received by 5 p.m. on Monday the week they are to run. They may be emailed directly to the editor in chief via letters@qchron.com. Please include your phone number, which will not be published, in case of any questions.

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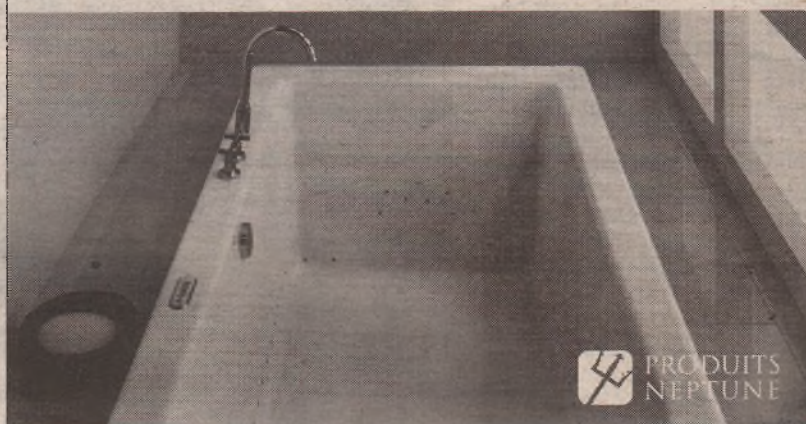
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Liu wants to be city's pit bull as comptroller

by **Liz Rhoades**
Managing Editor

Saying he wants to be the top watchdog for New York City, comptroller candidate John Liu outlined his plans during a sit-down last week with the Queens Chronicle staff.

Criticizing Mayor Mike Bloomberg for cajoling the City Council into extending term limits, Liu, the current city councilman from Flushing, said he found the move disturbing and a sign of the growing concentration of power in the city. He voted against the move.

"If the mayor had done it the right way, through a referendum, the people would have supported it. It was subversive of him to circumvent the process," he said. "It's not the way it should be. It was achieved through a tremendous amount of wealth."

In a field of four contenders — three of whom hail from Queens — Liu believes he has the experience to fill the position being vacated by Comptroller Bill Thompson Jr., who is running for mayor. "Before I was elected to the City Council in 2001, my career was in finance as a manager of PricewaterhouseCoopers," he said. "The comptroller's job is a position I am uniquely suited for."

He pointed to several accomplishments as councilman and how he would continue his efforts as a watchdog if elected as the city's chief fiscal officer and manager of its pension fund. "I was the first elected official in 2003 to point out the MTA had two sets of books," Liu said, something the transit agency no longer does. "You must hold the government accountable and there is a need to restore confidence."

He discussed the lack of transparency at the Department of Education, calling some of the agency's statistics, "a smoke and mirrors game," and claiming that the DOE's constant effort to spin things and its emphasis on test scores are not proper. "Some have gone up, but I'm not convinced that academic achievement is increasing," Liu said.

One of the main responsibilities of the comptroller is to invest the city's pension funds. Liu wants a more conservative mix of investments. He does not agree with one plan to put money into weakened businesses in the hope they will turn



John Liu is running for comptroller. (photo by Michael Lanza)

around. "Banks help businesses, not the city. We should not use pension funds to save companies. That can be done through other city programs," he said.

Instead, he favors continuing to utilize the stock market. "There are huge buy opportunities in the stock market," Liu said, adding he thinks it would also be risky to buy direct real estate as an investment.

Touting his experience in the private sector, Liu noted he ran pension funds for a living. "I would bring in an unprecedented level of professionalism and clean it up," he said.

Like his opponents, Liu does not favor increasing the city's water rates and said the increases now go into the general treasury, not for the water and sewer system. "You need to be up-front with people and not charge more than is necessary and then they can't even take the water fees off their income taxes."

As head of the council's Transportation Committee, Liu said one of his proudest moments was uncovering the MTA's questionable tactics. "The MTA is the largest state authority and needs to be overhauled," he said. He also favors adding more

LIRR trains in Queens and making it easier for borough commuters to get around on north-south mass transit routes.

A long-time opponent of illegal conversions, Liu said they are unsafe, deteriorate neighborhoods and put a strain on the infrastructure. "It is the responsibility of the Department of Buildings and if elected, I'll ensure the DOB is doing its job," he said.

Liu also favors the use of operational audits to check that each city agency is carrying out its mission. "The Department of Education is not defined as a city agency yet and if the state changes that, it would be under the purview of the comptroller," he said.

Liu believes the DOE has relaxed its oversight of remedial programs, using it as a shortcut for teens to finish high school. "Students should graduate in the proper way," he said. "We need remedial programs, but when you see a growing number of students using it and the DOE not being able to tell you how many are in it, you get a recipe for unaccountability. Its one of those numbers games the DOE uses."

He has not endorsed his former aide John Choe — or anyone else — for his City Council seat, but believes he is "very qualified" for the position. Although some in the Korean community said Choe has North Korean leanings, Liu indicated it's not true. "Some Koreans have red-baited him and some Chinese have called me a spy of the Communists in Red China. I'm not a spy," he said.

Having raised almost \$2.9 million for his campaign, more than any of his opponents, and having received numerous union and political endorsements, Liu is optimistic about the election. But he's not leaving anything to chance. "I am working day and night. You can't take the election for granted. It is not the sexiest race, so generating the turnout is critical," he said.

Liu promised to continue his practice of almost always being out in the field and distanced himself from his opponents. "I'm very different than my rivals. I'm the only one not primarily from the political sector. I'm not part of the old boys network," he said.

Liu was born in Taiwan and came here at the age of five. He has lived in the same Flushing neighborhood since then. He and his wife, Jenny, have a son, Joey, about to enter the fourth grade in public school.

Borough gets \$100M capital injection

Fourteen infrastructure projects will be funded in new budget

Queens residents can look forward to an increase in job opportunities and safer, more beautiful streets thanks to a bunch of new infrastructure projects planned for the borough.

Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Robert Lieber and New York City Economic Development Corporation President Seth Pinsky announced that \$100 million dollars has been allocated to fund fourteen projects in the areas surrounding Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport.

"New York City's airports are the gateway to our city and with these investments in the communities that surround JFK and LaGuardia we will set the stage for continued growth throughout Queens," Lieber said in a statement.

This collaborative effort between the city and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is estimated to create 400 new jobs and that's good news for recession-ravaged residents.

It's all part of the City's Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan, a three-pronged approach to aid New York City through the current economic crisis by creating jobs now, implementing long term strategies that promote economic growth, and building affordable housing.

"These much-needed capital projects will be the lifeblood of New York's resurgence from a devastating economy that has affected so many lives," Council-



A new sewer system for Willets Point was included in the budget. (photo by Michael Lanza)

woman Melinda Katz (D-Forest Hills), said. "It means good-paying jobs for hardworking, middle-class families who have borne the brunt of the impact, and that in turn will have a ripple effect throughout the borough and throughout the city."

Overall the projects aim to decrease traffic congestion, improve transportation, increase pedestrian safety and beau-

tify streetscapes.

At Willets Point, new sanitary sewer and storm-water systems will be installed.

In downtown Flushing, parts of Main Street and Union Street will be changed from two-way to one-way streets and sidewalks will be widened in order to accommodate pedestrian congestion.

A new bus station and enhanced landscaping are slated for Columbus Plaza.

"Columbus Plaza accommodates thousands of New Yorkers and visitors arriving at La Guardia Airport daily," Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), said. "It is one of the busiest and most important intersections in our city. This much-needed project will make the plaza more beautiful and safer for pedestrians."

The Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology plans to break ground on a newly renovated library and community center in 2010.

Better sidewalks, new medians, and more trees are coming to Rockaway Boulevard between the Van Wyck Expressway and 150th Street.

A new pedestrian plaza will be constructed in Corona near Roosevelt Avenue.

New lighting and benches along with additional landscaping and sidewalk renovation are scheduled for the Beach 20th Street pedestrian plaza in Far Rockaway.

Three transportation related studies were also funded to determine what other improvements could be made. One study that has already gotten underway suggests improving pedestrian safety along Woodhaven Boulevard by adding new bus shelters and sidewalks. Another will estimate how to improve passenger and cargo access to JFK. And the third will evaluate the effectiveness of traffic safety changes that were made to Astoria Boulevard, the Brooklyn Queens Expressway and Boody Street intersection in Jackson Heights.

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New York Blood Center needs more donations

by Ashly Luckose
Chronicle Reporter

Millions love NY, if the shirts and coffee mugs with the big red heart mean anything, but that love flows slower, apparently, when it comes to giving blood.

"We see it especially in Queens, unfortunately," said Harvey Schaffer, executive director of Long Island Blood Services. "Queens uses more blood than it gives. It is a net importer of blood."

Right now, the New York Blood Center needs 2,000 donations, or about 35 blood drives, a day to meet the high demands from hospitals. It is a struggle many in New York don't know about, Schaffer said.

"When people go to the hospital, they don't think 'I wonder if they have blood for me. They just assume it's there.'"

For now it is there. The centers have an adequate supply for the time being, according to Schaffer, but as the summer season continues, the NYBC is getting more concerned about the inventory.

It's harder to collect blood in the summer, because schools and colleges — two of the biggest sources for donations — are out. So to make up for the drop in volunteers, the NYBC has to find new sources in the five boroughs and surrounding areas.

Blood centers across the country are

dependent on various community partners, such as churches, schools and businesses, to maintain supply. But even with community help, the turnout isn't always very high.

In fact, according to the American Red Cross, only three out of every 100 people in America donate blood.

Further complicating matters, the centers need their blood to come from donors of different ethnicities, to ensure hospitals and

patients have access to many, different blood types. Schaffer said this variety is vital, because a lot of patients require precisely matched transfusions with similar antigens to their own, to ensure their body doesn't reject or react negatively to the blood. But exact matches are hard to

find outside the patient's ethnic or racial background.

Currently, according to the NYBC, it doesn't have enough diverse donors — 71 percent are white, 8.4 Latino, 6.8 black and 4.6 Asian.

The low turnout, high demand and strict requirements, added to the fact blood can't be stockpiled, makes blood collection a very difficult process, Schaffer said.

Whole blood has a short shelf-life to begin with, but then, after taking away the time it takes to test and transport it to hospitals, it becomes even shorter. It's a process the NYBC repeats every week.

"Queens uses more blood than it gives. It is a net importer of blood."

— Harry Schaffer, executive director,
Long Island Blood Services



Buddy the Blood Drop and Mr. Met at a recent Citi Field blood drive.

(photo by Michael O'Kane)

"It's not like collecting wheat," Shaffer added. "Our harvesting season is every day."

According to Leslie Gonzalez, spokesperson for the NYBC, giving blood is a simple, but vital, process that saves numerous lives every day. Each donation has the potential to save three lives, because blood can be broken further down to three important components — red cells, platelets and plasma. It's an act of kindness that makes a huge difference. Plus, it doesn't have any ill effects on the body.

"A whole blood donation is approximately one pint, and the average body has about 10 to 12 pints of blood," Gonzalez said, "so you can safely give blood once every 56 days. And after donating, your blood volume is back to being normal within 24 hours. It's an extremely safe procedure."

And not counting the paperwork, which can take around 45 minutes to complete, the actual donation is quick and easy. "It takes only 10 minutes to donate," she said, "only 10 minutes to save lives."

To find a local blood drive, visit

New study focuses on schizophrenia

by AnnMarie Costella
Chronicle Contributor

Imagine hearing voices, experiencing hallucinations, delusions or paranoia that causes you to believe others are conspiring against you. For one in every 100 young adults suffering from schizophrenia, this life-shattering experience is a reality. But,



Dr. John Kane, chairman of psychiatry at Zucker Hillside Hospital, along with Dr. Jeffrey Lieberman of Columbia University, is leading a research team to find new approaches to treating schizophrenic patients. (photo courtesy Zucker Hillside Hospital)

thanks to a new federally-funded study, better medical treatment may be just around the corner.

The government will provide \$40 million over the next six years to the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institutes of Health and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Half the money has been allocated to the Zucker Hillside Hospital campus of the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research with the rest going to Columbia University's New York State Psychiatric Institute.

"We are very excited," said Dr. John Kane, chairman of psychiatry at Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks. Kane, along with Dr. Jeffrey Lieberman of Columbia University, will lead the research team. "It is a tremendous opportunity to improve the lives of schizophrenic patients and we are delighted that the Institute of Mental Health is supporting this work," he said.

"This project will give us strategies that may change the course of illness for patients early in the disease process," Lieberman said in a statement. "We have some promising approaches that need to be combined and then tested on individuals in many different kinds of settings."

The study, called RAISE, will take the information that physicians have collected about schizophrenia, particularly from first episode patients, and use it to put together an enhanced intervention package of medication and psychosocial treatment.

The researchers will then train doctors around the country so they can test the treatment on their patients. After two years of follow-up visits, the results will be compared with those of patients receiving traditional psychiatric treatment.

"Both patients and families are concerned about the progress being made and whether schizophrenics can do

more to recover and function independently," Kane said. "The treatment they get is often fragmented. It takes a long time before the individual receives appropriate treatment."

Indeed, patients can receive a number of different treatments depending on their doctor or the location in which they live. This study is significant because it is the first attempt to determine if early, consistent, systematic treatment can alter the course of the illness.

Schizophrenia is a brain disease with a strong genetic component that usually develops during adolescence or early adulthood. Symptoms can occur gradually over weeks, months or even years.

"They [the families] are confused. They don't know what to think," Kane said. "They assume that its drugs or that the person is hanging out with the wrong crowd. They look for a less frightening answer than schizophrenia."

According to Kane, it may take more than a year after the symptoms have manifested themselves before a patient will seek treatment.

Sometimes individuals cannot recognize that anything is wrong and they have to be admitted to the hospital against their will — this is especially true in

cases where the patient is a danger to themselves or others.

"Imagine what it is like to watch your son or daughter go through this process — especially if they won't accept treatment," Kane said. "They can become hostile and even paranoid about their parents' true intentions, but at the same time they need family support, so we try to normalize that relationship in treatment."

If you think a loved one may be schizophrenic, Kane suggests contacting your doctor, local psychiatric clinic or hospital. If the individual is unwilling to accept help, he advises you go on their behalf to find out the best course of action. ☐

"Both patients and families are concerned about the progress being made and whether schizophrenics can do more to recover and function independently."

— Dr. John Kane, chairman of psychiatry,
Zucker Hillside Hospital



(photo courtesy HCN)

Hospice Care Network is honored for cultural outreach

Hospice Care Network was recently presented with a proclamation by state Assemblyman Jose Peralta, second from right, at a press conference announcing the expansion of HCN's Queens-wide project.

The two-year project, "Improving Access to Culturally Sensitive End-of-Life Care for Elderly Asian and Hispanic Residents of Queens," was launched last year, and funded with a grant provided by The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation. Under the expansion, HCN has

developed the campaign name "Bridging Cultures with Comfort" to appeal to the diverse communities of Queens. The goal is to reach out to more community groups and collaborate with established partners to encourage hospice education and volunteer participation.

Joining Peralta at the event were Priscilla LeMarie, left, cultural diversity program manager of HCN in Queens; Maureen Hinkelman, the HCN's president and CEO; and Dr. Cynthia Pan, the group's medical director.

Man admits tricking Trinidad community

A Queens man has pleaded guilty to defrauding five members of the Trinidadian community in South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill by promising to expedite and produce legitimate green cards and other U.S. documents after collecting a total of nearly \$100,000 from them, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Tuesday.

"The victims in this case strove to become part of the American Dream," Brown said. "They worked hard and saved their money and gave it to this defendant in the hopes of gaining legal status in this country. Instead, they were defrauded by this defendant who must be punished for taking advantage of these vulnerable victims."

The defendant, Nazim "Tony" Hosein, of Ozone Park, was arrested in January as he arrived at Kennedy International Airport on a flight from his native Trinidad, Brown said. He pleaded guilty to fourth-degree grand larceny Tuesday before Acting Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt. Hosein faces 16 months to four years in prison when he is sentenced on Aug. 19. The defendant also signed a confession of judgment in the amount of \$91,800 to be paid back to his five victims.

According to the criminal complaint,

Hosein met with his victims at various locations in Queens on numerous occasions between Aug. 1, 2007, and Oct. 10, 2008. Hosein allegedly told his victims that he knew someone who worked inside the federal building at 26 Federal Plaza in lower Manhattan who could assist him in getting them legitimate immigration documents — including green cards, Social Security cards and work permits — in exchange for a large sum of money, which would also cover the cost of other expenses, such as bank statements, taxes, fingerprints and medical coverage. The fees ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

In some cases, Hosein provided his victims with forged documents and, in other cases, asked them to meet him at 26 Federal Plaza on Oct. 10, 2008, to receive their documents.

On that day, many of Hosein's victims waited more than five hours outside the federal building for him, Brown said. Unbeknownst to them, Hosein had taken a flight from JFK to Trinidad the day before, according to U.S. Customs records.

In total, Hosein took \$91,800 in exchange for promising to obtain U.S. documentation for seven individuals from five families.

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Tenants beat Vantage parking plot

Real estate company settles, avoids impending court battle

by Michael Lanza
Assistant Editor

A group of Rego Park tenants scored a major win against a notorious real estate firm and its business partner on Monday.

Residents at 98-30 67th Ave. in Rego Park claimed that Vantage Management, a firm involved in numerous tenant disputes throughout the borough, and Central Parking Systems attempted to coerce tenants into giving up their rent-stabilized parking leases with a deceptive form and various threats.

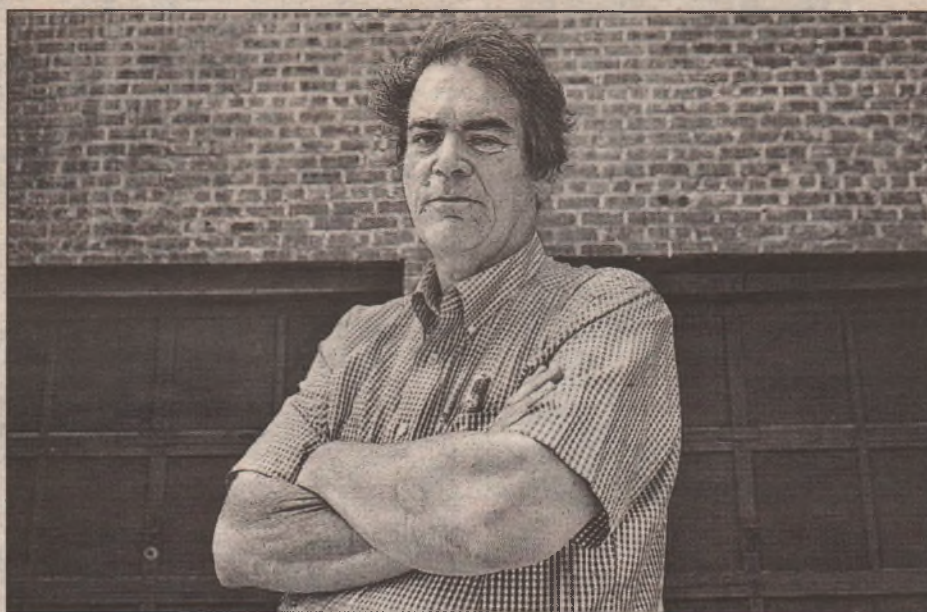
The companies agreed to void the controversial parking registration form during settlement negotiations reached after residents sued to negate it in court.

"I consider this a complete victory," said Lawrence Lame, an attorney and resident of the building. "The form was clearly improper and clearly illegal. I think that the way they reacted to it demonstrates that."

Lame has lived in the building for nearly 30 years and has used the same rent-stabilized parking spot throughout the three-decade span.

But he and many of his neighbors — who had already entered into long-term parking leases with Vantage — were up in arms over documents recently distributed by Central.

The seemingly simple form requested that tenants update their personal and vehicle information for an impending management change. But at the bottom of the document, tenants were told that they were also



Lawrence Lame led a lawsuit against the companies.

(photo by Michael Lanza)

agreeing to new lease terms detailed in fine print on the back.

"They said to us, 'You must sign this,'" Lame said. "Then they threatened to boot our car, break into our car, remove our car, deny us access to the car."

Many worried that the new monthly leasing system would give Central and Vantage an opportunity to kick them out and seek more lucrative customers.

"They kept saying this application is only to update information. Your rights will stay the same. You see how your rights stay the same," Lame said.

The application's fine print described new monthly leasing conditions at the building — essentially overriding existing long-term lease contracts. Those not complying would be subject to "harsh enforcement," an accompanying letter said.

"We've gone from a one to two year contract — to nothing," Lame said.

He said the company was illegally intimidating tenants into signing the document by threatening to remove their cars.

The issue went to housing court in June, when attorneys for Vantage didn't try to defend the company's actions — instead attempting to stall an injunction by claiming the court had no jurisdiction.

"Vantage did not dispute the merits whatsoever," Lame said.

The court eventually issued a stay on the case, but officials at both companies opted out of the impending legal battle in the end.

Vantage holds multiple properties in Queens, but Lame said the settlement only applies to forms for residents of his building. He urged tenants of other rent-stabilized buildings operated by the companies to challenge any similar forms.

"I have a terrible feeling they're in the same situation as we are," Lame said. "I just don't see how they can get away with it."

Officials at both Vantage and Central did not return calls for comment.

New parking lease contracts and rent payment information have not been provided to tenants since Central's arrival, according to Lame. But the attorney remained optimistic that the companies can redeem themselves next time around.

"There can be peace," Lame said. "If they don't trample on our rights, there's no reason to go to court again."

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Forest Hills banks hit by same robber

by Jon Blau
Chronicle Reporter

Around noon on Monday, two banks along Queens Boulevard in Forest Hills were struck by a robber who passed notes to tellers asking for money.

According to investigators at the scene, the first attempt was made at the Ridgewood Savings Bank, at 107-55 Queens Blvd., after the thief slipped a note to a teller demanding cash. The same perpetrator then crossed 108th Street and went into Sterling National Bank, at 108-01 Queens Blvd., where the suspect slipped another note to a teller.

No weapons were involved and no one was injured, police said.

Management at Ridgewood Savings said there would be no comment from the branch level, declining to offer any specifics on potential suspects or if money was taken from the bank. One officer who was questioning witnesses, including the operator of a Kabob stand outside Sterling, classified the incident at Ridgewood Savings as an attempted robbery, while a theft did follow at Sterling.

An official at Sterling did not return messages requesting comment.

During the investigation, customers of Ridgewood Savings stood curiously outside since they were not allowed to enter. The bank reopened shortly before 2 p.m.

"These are hard times," one woman said. "People do desperate things for money." □



Ridgewood Savings Bank, top, and Sterling National Bank were both closed Monday afternoon as police questioned witnesses who saw a robber pass notes to tellers demanding money. (photos by Jon Blau)



(photo by Steve Malecki)

Maspeth hosts the Classics

Emil Stucchio and the Classics performed in Maspeth last Wednesday in the second show in a summer concert series sponsored by Maspeth Federal Savings.

The Duprees will finish up the series next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 56-18 69th St. in Maspeth.

The concert is a free event hosted by the bank.

Limited chairs are available for seated viewing, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs for the event.

For more information contact the bank at (718) 335-1300.

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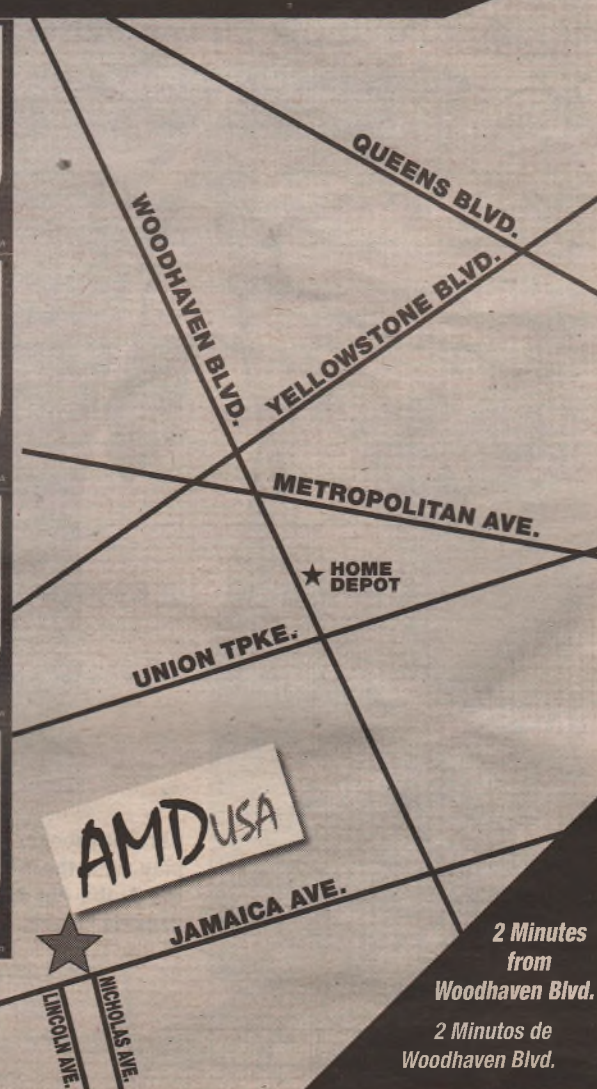
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Keeping fit and having a ball with Nintendo's Wii

by AnnMarie Costella
Chronicle Contributor

Bernice Crocker, an avid bowler, had never tried a virtual version of the sport. But she took to the game like a natural, getting strike after strike on the Nintendo Wii game system.

"Don't nobody tell me I can't bowl," the 82-year-old St. Albans resident said as she did a victory dance.

City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) donated the console to the senior center Crocker attends, along with several others in his district, after a new study by Florida researchers revealed that the video game system improves the physical and psychological health of older adults. Many other senior centers in Queens have either gotten Wii systems or are planning to do so.

"I hope this gift will give you a lot of hours of enjoyment and opportunities to have some fun and to engage each other in a social way, but also in an entertainment way," Comrie said.

Crocker, who attends the Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Center in Cambria Heights, enjoyed the Wii so much she will definitely play it again and encourages others to do the same.

"Anything new is good for us seniors," she said. "I don't care what it is. You get tired of the same old-same old."

According to the Florida study, seniors ages 60 to 80 who played the Wii in Pensacola not only enjoyed the exercise and felt rejuvenated but also increased their heart rate by 40 percent.

"I think it's exciting," Dorothy Philip, 69, said of Comrie's gift to Alpha Phi Alpha. "It's one of the newest computerized games that all the kids want, so for us to get used to what is going on right now in the computer world is important."

"It feels good. It's like being at a real bowling alley," said Peggy Wiley, 64, an avid bowler who has a Wii system at home. "It gives seniors something to do."

In addition to bowling, the Wii comes equipped with other sports like baseball, tennis, golf, and boxing.

At Hollis Presbyterian Church, Pastor Mark Chapman was delighted to receive the Wii system and says that it will make a fabulous addition to senior game day, a time when the older adults get together to play board games like Scrabble.

"It's a sign of commitment to the seniors in our community and we are very grateful to receive it," Chapman said. "We have an active senior program and we look to have an even more active senior program with the contribution of this system."

Indeed, the seniors at Hollis Presbyterian embraced the system and were anxious for their turn to play.

Fredericka Muir, left, Joan Wynne and Doris Walker enjoy the Wii at the Hollis Presbyterian Church. (photos by AnnMarie Costella)

"I enjoyed it very much," Doris Walker of Queens Village said. "I know it's been around because I think my godson has one, but I didn't get a chance to play it with him. The idea that you can do it inside and you don't have to worry about going to the bowling alley is great and I think we are going to love it."

"I think I'm going to lose a lot of weight," Joan Wynne, 73, said. "It's better than watching television."

Comrie also donated Wii systems to the Allen Community Senior Center, Maranatha Senior Center, Robert Couche Senior Center, St. Albans Congregational Church and Theodora Jackson Adult Center.

"Many of our seniors are on limited income and otherwise wouldn't have access to such a remarkable exercise tool like the Wii," Comrie said. "It is my hope that these systems will help to improve their health and make their daily center experience more beneficial."

The operators of other senior facilities throughout Queens agree. The Ridgewood Older Adult Center obtained a Wii four months ago, and its patrons regularly "go bowling" on their 52 inch television set.

"It's a unique concept, and they didn't get it at first but after they laughed and giggled about it, they started to get into it," said Jacqueline Eradiri, the Ridgewood center's executive director. "They like it."

The HANAC Senior Center in Astoria does not yet have a Wii but would like to get one. "I hope that in the future we will have the money to purchase one," Director Melana Georgiadis said. "I hear that it is excellent for exercise."

Upon learning of the health benefits of the Wii, the Selfhelp Maspeth Senior Center purchased the system over a year ago.

"Many of the seniors were familiar with it from their grandchildren," Program Director Maria Dixon said. "Once they learned how to use it, they really enjoyed it."



Bernice Crocker, left, and Peggy Wiley play with the Nintendo Wii system at the Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Center in Cambria Heights.



Councilman Leroy Comrie, center, provided the Wii game system to the seniors at Alpha Phi Alpha.

The summer of '69 — remembering Woodstock

Forty years after the peak of 'Flower Power' at Yasgur's farm, classics reissued

by Lloyd Carroll

Chronicle Contributor

Every summer is special, but it seems as if the summer of 1969 — and yes, I know it's hard to believe that was 40 years ago — was particularly memorable. Canadian rocker Bryan Adams knew it when he did his huge 1985 hit "Summer of '69," in which he recollected memories of learning to play his first guitar and his first summer crush. That tune still gets a lot of play on classic rock stations. But when most of us think of that year, we think of the Miracle Mets, men walking on the moon, maybe the Manson murders — and certainly the most famous rock concert of all-time, Woodstock, the three-day festival held in upstate New York.

Various Artists: "Woodstock" and "Woodstock Two" (Rhino)

Rhino Records has just reissued the long out-of-print triple vinyl albums, "Woodstock" and "Woodstock Two" that were originally released on Atlantic Records in the fall of 1970 and the spring of 1971, respectively. They're now double-CD sets.

The Woodstock Music & Art Fair, also called the Woodstock Music and Arts Festival, was held from August 14 through 17 on Max Yasgur's farm in Bethel. It was supposed to be a traditional for-profit concert, but it became a free event when security could not handle the nearly half-million fans who showed up. Promoter Artie Kornfeld was able to recoup some of his costs by selling the rights for a Woodstock movie to Warner Bros. Pictures.

It should be noted that both the "Woodstock" soundtrack and its

sequel contain just a small portion of the music actually played at Yasgur's farm. While the biggest rock acts of the day, such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Doors, passed on Woodstock, the Who, Blood, Sweat & Tears, the Jefferson Airplane, the Band, the Grateful Dead, Crosby Stills, Nash & Young and Creedence Clearwater Revival all played full sets.

CCR has always been involved in record company litigation, so it's not surprising that none of their performances are on these albums. Capitol Records also refused to give up their rights to the recordings of the Band, so none of Robbie Robertson and company's songs are here either. But a

lot of great tunes are.

Neither Richie Havens nor Jimi Hendrix were well-known going into Woodstock, but they were legends after it. Hendrix's behind-the-neck blistering guitar rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" is, for my money, the most memorable take ever on Francis Scott Key's tribute to American valor during the War of 1812. It's tragic that Hendrix would live just

continued on page 19



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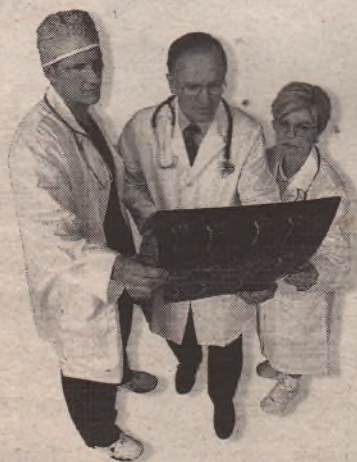
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Astoria's Night Out Against Crime

Every year, police precincts across the city host a string of community events, ranging from crime prevention lectures to barbecues, on the National Night Out Against Crime. The 114th Precinct held its event in Astoria Park on Tuesday, offering everything from hot dogs to pony rides.

"National Night Out Against Crime was established during the height of New York City's violent street crime epidemic as a way for citizens to symbolically reclaim their streets," said Queens District Attorney Richard Brown. "Now, as the crime rate continues to plummet, National Night Out remains an important reminder of the need to remain vigilant in the fight for public safety."



Ozone Park author digs up Italian roots

by Lisa Fogarty
Assistant Editor

You could say Anne Romano now belongs to a long-standing fraternity.

Her new book, "Distant but Loyal," which the South Ozone Park resident self-published after 10 years in the making, examines her family's migration from Itri, Italy to Cranston, R.I. In it, she analyzes the Itrani character — studies their culture, heritage and religion; explores the ways in which their traditions were transcribed once their feet hit U.S. soil.

Romano traveled back and forth to Itri — hit all the libraries, interviewed countless residents and snapped photos of everything that could have meant anything to her parents, Maria and Giacinto. She also clocked in more than a few miles trekking between Queens and Cranston. Her first trip on I-95 north to visit her family's many relatives took place the summer of 1996, when her father was 91. Arriving during the feast of the Madonna della Civita, Itri's patron saint, Romano's father was treated as if he'd never left home.

"On the day of the feast, men carrying this 500-pound statue of the saint stopped in front of my dad, knelt down and let him kiss it. I was so moved and touched by that," Romano recalled. "I began to wonder what it would have been like if I'd been brought up in Rhode Island. That started the whole inquiry into what pushed them out of Italy in the first place."

The desire to inspect and throw a spotlight upon her family's heritage puts Romano in the same camp as other cultural detectives — luminaries such as Frank



Author and South Ozone Park resident Anne Romano holds up a copy of her book, "Distant but Loyal," an intimate account of the Itrani people's culture, character, religious devotion and lifestyle.
(photo courtesy Anne Romano)

McCourt, who explored his upbringing in Brooklyn and Ireland in "Angela's Ashes"; Ignazio Silone, an Abruzzese native who captured the struggles of Italian farmers and the poor in "Bread and Wine"; and with less fanfare, Caroline Seller Manzo, an Englishwoman who fell in love with the peculiar and precious oddities she unearthed in her husband's Sicilian *paese* in "Casa Nostra: A Home in Sicily."

Romano's setting, however, is virtually uncharted literary territory. Itri is a city of 10,000 people in the central region of Lazio — that same wonderland most famous for containing a little city called Rome. It boasts a castle, a 12th century bell tower and a fortress used by freedom fighter Fra

Diavolo to ward off France in the 18th century. It's close to the mountains and minutes away from the Tyrrhenian Sea, yet, many of its residents, including Romano's mother and father, flocked to Cranston after the war to find work as vegetable farmers, masons and clothesmakers.

Romano's family eventually moved to New York City, settling in Manhattan. The author planted her roots in South Ozone Park after meeting her Queens-born husband. The couple raised three sons in the neighborhood while Romano, who earned her bachelor's degree from Queens College and master's degree from Columbia University, acquired her doctorate in sociology from Fordham University. She has published

numerous psychology, criminology and sociology books and is a professor of sociology at Nassau Community College. She also serves as president of the American Italian Historical Association, Long Island Chapter. In 2005, Romano was even named Queens Woman of Distinction by former state Sen. Serphin Maltese, around the same time she was in the process of researching and writing "Distant but Loyal," which she said had as much to do with her desire to contradict societal myths about Italians as it did her personal curiosity.

"I was in tune with presenting positive images of Italians — hardworking people who came here to make a better life for themselves and their families," Romano said. "Yet, all you see on television is the 'Sopranos' and the 'Real Housewives of New Jersey.'"

Romano recounts one trip to Cranston when she located her father's nephew's address and knocked on the door, eager to chat with her unfamiliar relative. The man was out for the afternoon but his wife insisted her new niece return that evening for dinner.

"We were invited back for dinner without even knowing them," she said. "She took us all in and fed us. It's that hospitality and warmth you don't find on the streets of Manhattan."

Romano will speak at an author's luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 12 until 3 p.m. at Pompeii Restaurant at 401 Hempstead Ave. in West Hempstead, Long Island.

To learn more about "Distant but Loyal" or purchase it, visit amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com or borders.com.

Smart Grid

continued from page 2

infrastructure was totally inadequate for the 21st century, leaving residents to wonder if the lights will go off whenever the temperature creeps up," Gioia said in a statement. "New Yorkers were long overdue for an upgrade, and it's right that Con Ed start this program in Long Island City."

Some cities in the United States and Europe already have smart grids, but Con Ed says New York's size and the diversity of its buildings mean that it presents unique challenges. The \$6 million pilot program in Queens is meant to test how such a grid would work here.

Burke said Queens is a good place to test the system because it is representative of Con Ed's service territory as a whole — "a combination of residential, commercial and industrial."

The utility is applying for hundreds of millions in federal stimulus funding to expand smart grid projects. Incorporating the whole city would cost several hundred billion dollars, Burke said.

In addition to trying out a smart grid, Con Ed is partnering with the City University of New York to study how more solar power can be used. CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said the university generates solar power, which it will supply to Con Ed, and professors are working to improve the means for storing alternative energy, which is one of the main challenges to using it effectively.

Con Ed is also planning to evaluate how well the city's grid would be able to handle widespread use of electric cars. Con Ed officials showed off a prototype electric car which they say could be the commuter vehicle of the future.

Made by Mini, makers of the Mini Cooper, the car plugs into a regular outlet and can go 100 miles between charges. Officials say fully charging a car uses about \$7 worth of electricity. □

Dragon boats will ply Meadow Lake

by Liz Rhoades

Managing Editor

To the rhythm of ancient drums, more than 1,000 dragon boat racers will compete this weekend on Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows Park.

The 17th annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All events, both on the land and water, are open free to the public both days.

There will be music, crafts and other entertainment on land, while more than 100 teams from the United States and Canada vie for cash and prizes on the lake.

Events begin Saturday on land at 10 a.m. with lion dancers to open the festival. A parade will follow at 11:30 a.m., featuring the dancers, dignitaries and the race teams.

Races on Saturday will determine the city championships while Sunday's heats will decide the overall winners in all divisions. Race distances are 250, 500 and 1,000 meters. There are many Queens-based teams participating, including ones from Congressman Gary Ackerman's office, Councilman John Liu's office, Flushing restaurant East Buffet, New York Hospital Queens and the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

The teak boats used in the races are custom made in Hong Kong. Each one weighs a ton and is designed with a dragon head at the front and tail at the rear. A crew of 20 men each boat, including a drummer to keep the beat and a steerer to guide the way.

The festival commemorates the death of Qu Yuan, a respected leader who was besmirched in ancient times and is said to



A drummer keeps the beat for participants in a past dragon boat race in Meadow Lake at Flushing Meadows Park. (file photo)

have committed suicide by drowning in a river. Nearby fishermen tried to save him but they failed and his body was never found. The races symbolize the rescue attempts.

Saturday's performers include a brass ensemble from the Queens Symphony Orchestra, Lyus Hung and her band Meow, martial arts by members of the Shaolin Temple and Jack Hsu and his band Hsu-Nami.

On Sunday, the musical entertainers include the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York, Cover-to-Cover, Edge, Abdou Mboup, presenting African music, Luca Mundaca, DJ Johnathan and Hong Kong

musician Simon Yu. The martial arts demonstration will repeat on Sunday.

In addition, there will be an arts and crafts tent with 20 artists demonstrating traditional Chinese crafts including calligraphy, rice doll making, kite making, ribbon flowers and paper cutting. Children will be able to participate.

Festival organizers ask visitors to take public transportation to Flushing Meadows as there is no parking around the lake. Parking for a fee is available at Citi Field. A shuttle bus to the racing area will be available outside the subway station at Citi Field. Normal transit fees will be charged. □



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Vallone jams with Fruitgum

Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), second from left, shed his business attire Sunday night and took to the stage in Astoria Park with a rock band called the 1910 Fruitgum Company.

As hundreds of people gathered on lawn chairs and blankets, the group played hit songs

including "Simon Says" and "1-2-3 Red Light," as well as classics from the 1960's and 70's.

The band invited Vallone to sit in for a song after watching a video of his live bass performance during a fundraiser last March. Vallone, who plays four instruments, joined the band for the Monkey's classic hit, "I'm a Believer."

VFW raises funds for injured soldier

A Middle Village veterans group raised nearly \$2,600 for a severely wounded Iraq War vet on Saturday.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 551 held a yard sale on 60th Avenue to raise funds for 22-year-old Pvt. 1st Class Brendan Marrocco, who enlisted in the U.S. Army only a year before being wounded in combat.

Marrocco was maimed on April 12 when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in Iraq. All four of his limbs were amputated due to extensive injuries sustained in the blast.

The soldier is currently undergoing treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C.

"All of the donations were phenomi-

nal," said Michael Brown, the post's commander, who served with the Navy in the Vietnam War. "We wanna make this kid known."

The veterans group has extended a raffle drawing for a barbecue grill through next week in order to raise additional funds.

Tickets are available for three for \$5 from the Middle Village post. They may be purchased Tuesday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Haspel-Staab Post, located at 84-02 60th Ave. in Middle Village.

"This will be a continuing program," Brown said of fundraising efforts for Marrocco.

For more information, contact Brown at (718) 426-0393.

No more dumping old, used carpets?

It might become mandatory to recycle commercial carpets rather than disposing of them as solid waste, if a bill introduced by Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) passes in the City Council.

The legislation would establish a carpet recycling program, meant to help reduce the amount of pollutants released into the environment.

"Commercial carpets take up much of our ever-dwindling space," Vallone said. "New York City should once again lead by example when it comes to enacting environmentally-friendly legislation."

The legislation would require building owners or custodians to separate commercial

carpets that are 10,000 square feet or larger from other solid waste and arrange for the material to be collected for reuse or recycling.

The bill would direct the Department of Sanitation to establish, maintain and regularly update a list of carpet recycling companies on its website. It would also require carpet recycling companies to submit information on the total amount of carpeting secured, reused and recycled.

Last year, Vallone sponsored legislation requiring large stores and chains to provide receptacles for shoppers to leave their plastic bags for recycling. It also requires them to sell reusable bags and report the amount of plastic they recycle each year.



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August 6, 2009

ARTS, CULTURE & LIVING

SUNDAYS ON THE RIVER WITH PADDLES



by Victor Epstein

As you walk down Vernon Boulevard by Socrates Sculpture Park on Sunday afternoons, it's hard to miss the fleet of bright yellow kayaks peppering the East River.

They're from the Long Island City Community Boathouse, which lets people paddle for free almost every Sunday, weather permitting, around Hallet's Cove in Long Island City.

As spectators and those waiting for a kayak crowd on the sidewalk, volunteers help people into kayaks and push them off the small sandy shore.

The program has been going on for about five years and is increasingly popular. "We're serving 150 a day now — that's a typical Sunday for us," said Ted Gruber, the chairman of the LICCB.

It wasn't always like that. "In the early days the founder would come here with one boat and wait for people to do it," Gruber said. "Two years ago when I arrived, there would be three or four boats here, and maybe there would be people waiting and maybe there wouldn't."

continued on page 29

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EXHIBITS

AES Gallery, 44-02 23rd St., ground floor, Long Island City, presents "Wall Paintings," an exhibition of paintings by Chris Esposito and Amber Dubois now through Aug. 15. For information, visit galleryaes.com

The Noguchi Museum, 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City, presents a special exhibition and educational program, "From Plaster to Stone" now through Aug. 30. Gallery hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and students with a valid ID and children under 12 are free. On the first Friday of every month, museum admission is pay what you wish. For information, call (646) 486-7050.

Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning presents the exhibit "Past/Presents Tense — Tiempos Del Subjuntivo," featuring works by artist Juana Valdes, from now through Sept. 5, at 161-04 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica. For information, call (718) 658-7400.

Flushing Town Hall's annual Members' Art Exhibition "In Celebration" will be held now through Sept. 13. Much of the art is for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefits Flushing Council's Visual Arts programs. There is a suggested donation of \$5. Gallery hours on Saturdays and Sundays are from noon-5 p.m.

Crossing Art, 136-17 39th Ave., ground floor, Flushing, presents "09 Oh Cow!" now through Sept. 18. The exhibition is a five-panel juried show with international artists from Canada, Europe and Taiwan. Also, artwork from Andy Warhol.

AUDITIONS

Douglaston Community Theatre is holding open auditions for six men and two women (UK accents preferred) for Ray Cooney's British farce "Funny Money" on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Zion Episcopal Church, 44th Avenue off Douglaston Parkway. For directions, call (914) 330-3050.

THEATRE

St. Gregory's Theatre Group presents, in its 30th year, Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." Show dates and times are Aug. 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 8, 9, and 16 at 2 p.m. Performances will be held in Gregorian Hall, Cross Island Parkway North and 87th Ave., Bellerose. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$7 for children under 12. Group sales available. For tickets, call the box office at (718) 989-2451 or e-mail tickets@sgtg.org. There will also be a special character breakfast on Aug. 15 at 9:30 a.m. Call for reservations.

Hip to Hip Theatre Company presents one of Shakespeare's most hilarious romantic comedies "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Fort Totten Park (Gazebo Area). Bring a chair or blanket.

Broadway Blockbusters Productions presents the 100 Years of Broadway at Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., on Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 13, 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 22 at 2 p.m.; and VIP night on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 8 p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Arturo O'Farrill and his Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra will perform at the Louis Armstrong Museum in Flushing.

(photo by John Abbott)

Reserve your tickets at thejosephinefoundation.org; or by calling (516) 334-1536. Tickets are \$20, VIP box seats are \$30.

MOVIES

Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, presents free outdoor cinema 2009. On Wednesday, Aug. 12, "Tulpan," from Kazakhstan. Pre-screening performances begin at 7 p.m. Film begins at sunset.

MUSIC

Karaoke with Billy C and Kitty on Friday, Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. at **Forest Park**, Woodhaven Boulevard in Woodhaven. Also, Mary Lamont Band present by the NY Metro Country Music Association will perform on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Music in the Garden, the **Noguchi Museum's** summer performance series, continues its season with the American Contemporary Music Ensemble on Sunday, Aug. 9 at 3 p.m. The museum is located on Vernon Boulevard between 10th Street and 33rd Road, Long Island City. Admission to the concert is free with museum admission, \$10 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens and students with a valid ID; free for children under 12 and New York City public high school students with a valid I.D.

Flushing Town Hall will hold free Sunday Garden

Concerts on Aug. 9 and 23 at 2 p.m. Dance lessons will be held at 1:15 p.m. On Aug. 9, the Lew Picardi Orchestra (Jazz and swing music) will perform. On Aug. 23, Willie Martinez (Latin Mambo and Salsa) will perform. Limited seating is available and lawn chairs are suggested. The rain location is the Flushing Town Hall Gallery.

The **Louis Armstrong House Museum**, 34-56 107th St., Flushing, will present Arturo O'Farrill and his Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra in a free outdoor Jazzmobile concert on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. The concert pays tribute to Satchmo on his birthday week.

Maspeth Federal Savings will hold its summer concert series at the main office parking field, 69th Street and Grand Avenue, Maspeth, rain or shine, at a tent covered seating area. Nostalgia Night with The Duprees, will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Seating is limited, bring folding chairs. For information, call (718) 335-1300.

Free summer concerts at the Ridgewood Branch, of **Ridgewood Savings Bank**, 71-02 Forest Ave., on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 7:30 p.m., featuring The GB's and the Polanaise Dancers — Traditional Polish Polka music and dancers.

Free live entertainment at **Casa Positano Italian Restaurant**, 107-02 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills. Enjoy an evening with family and friends from 10 p.m.-

closing — Tuesday, karaoke; Wednesday, open mic night by Jimmy V.; Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, keyboard music, dancing and Italian food drive; and Friday, wild Latin and disco night.

FLEA MARKETS

St. Nicholas of Tolentine holds its outdoor flea market on Saturdays and Sundays through November from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the intersection of Union Turnpike and Parsons Boulevard on the Flushing/Jamaica border.

TOURS

Astoria Water Walk will be held on Sundays, Aug. 9, 16 and 23 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. along Shore Boulevard in **Astoria Park**. Enjoy art, music and fun on a temporary pedestrian street. All activities are free.

The **Voelker Orth Museum**, Bird Sanctuary and Victorian Garden, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing, offers drop-in guided tours of the museum every Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Tours will also be available on Wednesday afternoons. The Voelker Orth Museum was the homestead of three generations of a German immigrant family who settled in Flushing at the end of the 19th century. For information, call (718) 359-6227 or visit the website at vomuseum.org.

CLASSES

Leaves, kitchen scraps, garden trimmings and weeds can all become garden gold through composting. A class at the **Queens Botanical Garden**, 43-50 Main St., Flushing, covers the essentials on composting, both outside in city yards and inside your apartment using a worm bin on Tuesday, Aug. 11 from 6-8 p.m. Call (718) 886-3800.

The **Voelker Orth Museum**, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing, invites the public to the Ins and Outs of Happy Plants a special summer workshop and clinic for home gardeners on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at noon. Admission is \$5 and \$3 for members. To register, call (718) 359-6227.

A defensive driving course for insurance and point reduction will be given at **St. Mel's Church**, 28-20 154th St., Flushing, on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For information and registration, call (631) 360-9720. The cost is \$45.

A Boating safety course will be taught by qualified U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors from Flotilla 12-01 at **Fort Totten**, Bayside on Sundays, Aug. 30. This one-day class will cover various aspects of safe boating for power boats, sail boats and personal watercraft. It will take place from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and the fees are \$100 for adults and \$50 for children. Pre-registration is a must. For information, call (718) 352-3764 or e-mail 12-01@verizon.net.

Watercolor classes being offered at the **Douglaston Art League**, 44-21 Douglaston Parkway, on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per class.

Italian Charities of America, 83-20 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst will hold a dance with instruction, every Monday and Friday, 7:15-8 p.m. A dance social will be held from 8-11 p.m. Music by Sal Escott. Admission is \$10.

To submit a theater, music, art, or entertainment item to What's Happening, e-mail artslistingqchron@gmail.com

A one-man symphony

Woodside harmonica player makes a big splash with a small instrument

by Alan Krawitz
qboro Contributor

When it comes to playing the harmonica, Woodside resident Jia-Yi He is a veritable rock star.

The internationally acclaimed musician and teacher has performed throughout Europe and Asia as well as right here in the New York area and is headed to a major harmonica conference in California soon.

"I love playing the harmonica, and I have loved it ever since I started playing back in China," he said.

The musician's love affair with the harmonica has been a long one. Now 56, he began playing in 1964 and in 1998 came to the U.S. to further pursue a musical career. He performs regularly with classical symphony orchestras, most recently appearing on stage with the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra in Franklin Square.

"Jia-Yi is a virtuoso on his instrument and the winner of numerous international competitions," says Louis Panacciulli, conductor of the NPSO. "Jia-Yi will warm you with the beautiful sound of his

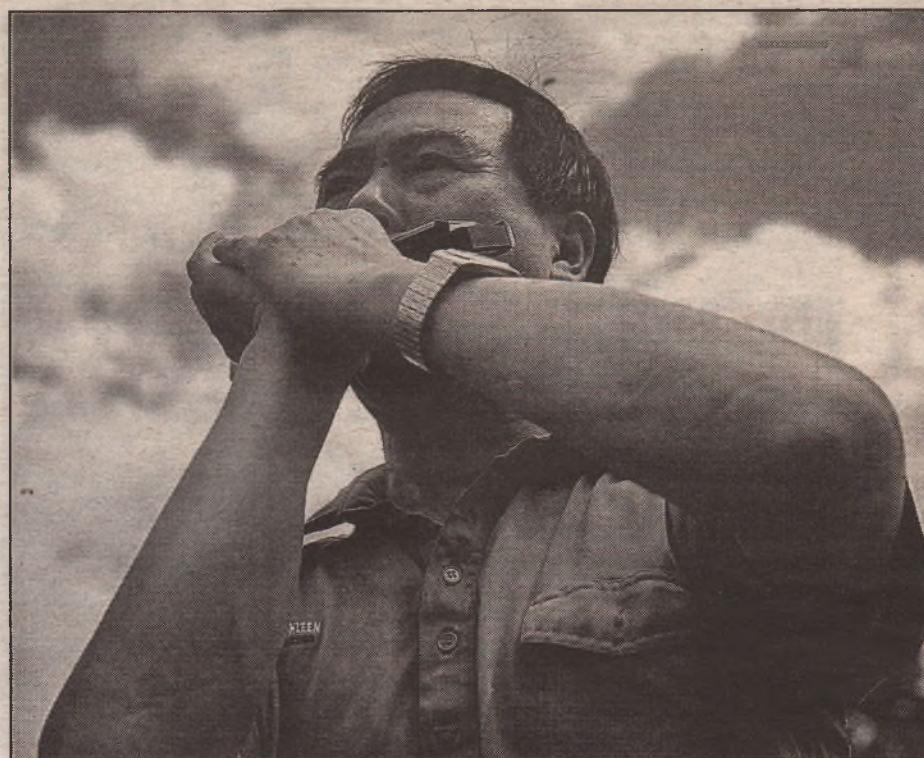
instrument, and amaze you with his incredible technique."

The musician says that when people see him playing his harmonica with an orchestra, they're astonished. "Playing the harmonica with a symphony is difficult because you must sync your playing with the conductor and the rest of the symphony," he says. "It's easier to play solo because you can recover from mistakes much easier."

He added that the harmonica is an extremely versatile instrument which can sound like a violin, flute or oboe depending on how the player positions his hands, lips and throat.

In addition to being a longtime student of the harmonica, He is a part-time teacher of both beginning and advanced players at the prestigious Turtle Bay Music School in Manhattan. Grace Chandarlapaty, director of programs and community outreach at Turtle Bay, called him "an incredibly talented musician who instills great joy in his teaching."

She added that he frequently performs at the school's benefits, public school



Jia-Yi He

(photo by Michael Lanza)

programs and free community concerts. "Despite a busy performance and traveling schedule, Jia-Yi never skips a student performance or an opportunity to share his unique gifts," she said.

He's touring schedule has led to performances across the globe, including a

concert at the Royal College of Music in London, one with the Cambridge University Chinese Orchestra Society, a six-city concert tour with the Calcutta Chamber Orchestra in India and an invitation to perform alongside his daughter at the

continued on page 29

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For more info visit findmeinhere.wordpress.com

ESTP-046445

qboro

Stay full, and cool, with scrumptious summer salads



Creamy shrimp salad

(photo by Lori Florio)

by Lori Florio
qboro Contributor

When the weather is hot and sticky, the last thing you want to think about is turning on the stove or oven. Summer salads — substantial ones, big on flavor but easy on the chef — can save the day.

A tasty chicken salad based on a store-bought, pre-cooked rotisserie chicken is a family favorite in all types of weather. If you can skin and shred a cooked chicken, chop up vegetables and herbs, and whisk an oil-based dressing, this dish is for you. Best of all, it tastes most delightful at room temperature. Serve it alone or over lettuce.

If seafood is more your style, try a cool and satisfying shrimp salad for an absolute treat on a sweltering day. Add some crunchy celery and fresh herbs to store bought, pre-cooked shrimp, douse them with a creamy dressing, tuck the salad into a soft roll with some lettuce, and you're in heaven.

Give your stove — and yourself — a break and let these salads help you beat the heat this summer.

Easy chicken salad

- 1 rotisserie chicken, skinned and shredded
- 2 cups roasted bell peppers, drained, patted dry and chopped
- 1 large shallot, thinly sliced (or 3 large scallions, white and green parts, finely chopped)
- 1/2 cup each chopped fresh parsley and basil
- 1/2 cup drained capers, whole or chopped
- Salt and pepper

For the sherry vinaigrette:

- 1/4 cup sherry vinegar
- Juice of one lemon

- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup olive oil

Whisk the first five vinaigrette ingredients together in a small bowl. Slowly whisk in the oil until the mixture has emulsified.

Toss the chicken with the peppers, shallot, parsley and capers in a large bowl. Moisten with vinaigrette, adding the liquid slowly and tossing well until all the chicken is coated. Season the salad with salt and pepper, to taste. Serves four.

Creamy shrimp salad

- 1 pound large cooked shrimp, peeled and de-veined
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon dry white wine (or water)
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped tarragon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 large shallot, minced (1/2 cup)
- 1 large celery stalk, chopped (3/4 cup)
- 4 leaves Boston lettuce
- 4 hotdog buns

Chop the shrimp into large chunks and place in a bowl.

In another bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, mustard and wine. Add the tarragon, salt and pepper and mix well.

Add the shallots and celery to the shrimp, and slowly pour in the dressing, tossing to coat.

Place a lettuce leaf into each hotdog bun and top with the shrimp salad. Serves four.

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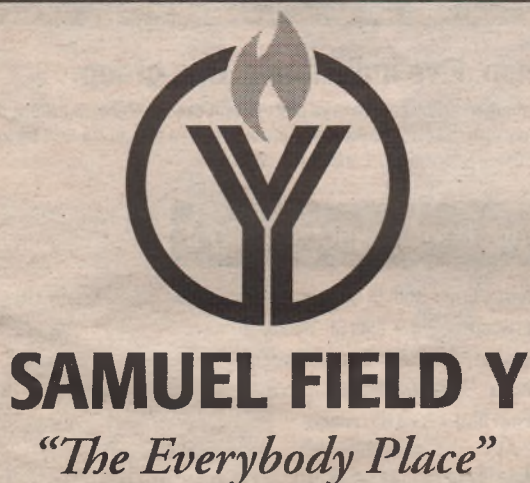
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Free kayaking draws growing crowds

continued from page 23

Those who come to kayak are an eclectic lot, as evidenced by the array of head gear they wear. A fedora, a skullcap, hijabs, baseball caps, an army camouflage fisherman's hat, even an umbrella hat with the U.S. flag on it, all bobbed up and down on the sidewalk on a recent Sunday, waiting for their turn to bob on the water.

Participants are of all ages and experience levels. "One day we had a six-month-old and a 90-year-old," volunteer Paul Mallery said.

Ciro Rosselli and Vanessa Cracco tried the kayaking program for the first time recently. "It's a nice change from going to Long Island to get in the water," Cracco joked.

Margaret Falzon and her 11-year-old daughter Tatianna enjoyed the ride so much that they signed up to paddle again as soon as they got out of their boat.

Kayakers are seated on a first-come, first-served basis and are asked to return to shore within approximately half an hour. The wait for a boat, depending on the party size, is usually about 30 minutes.

Wesley Miller, the volunteer who oversees the sign-up list and makes sure waivers are signed, joked with the crowd on a recent Sunday. He laughingly suggested that a woman who came to the launch but refused to go on the water be tied to a boat.

"Please beware of the sharks and alligators," yelled Miller to a child leaning over the fence.

"Show me the alligators," replied Farouk Abdelrahman, 7.

"I'll show you the alligators," exclaimed Miller. He then told

Farouk the urban legend about alligator eggs flushed down a toilet, spawning 40-foot alligators that live in the sewers. "When boys are naughty we feed them to 'em," he finished.

Farouk's parents, Moustafa and Sahera, have taken their son kayaking in previous years and consider themselves regular attendees.

"And from now on we're going to do it every day," interjected Farouk.

"Every weekend," corrected his mother.

"No mama, every day," he insisted.

The program is offered most Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. at Hallett's Cove, where LICCB shares the tiny beach with Joel Rodriguez, who runs a Coastal Classroom for the public. The Coastal Classroom, an initiative of the City Parks Foundation, is a free course for the public about marine life.

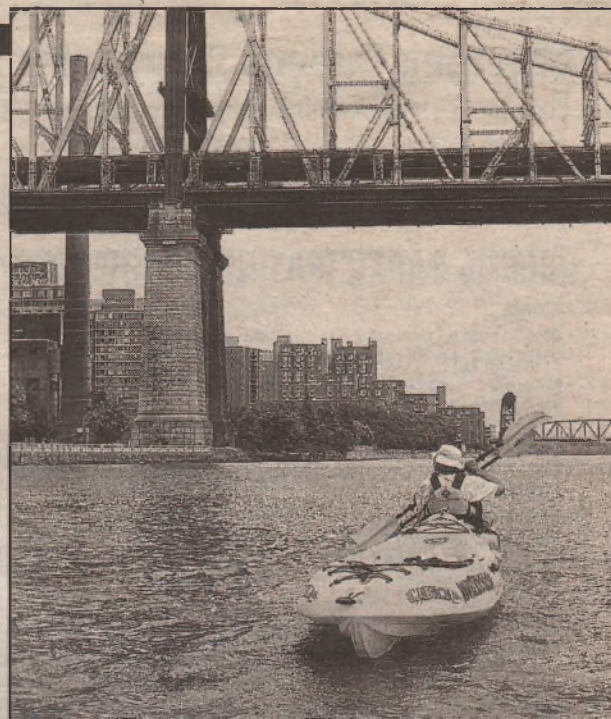
As the LICCB volunteers load and unload people into kayaks just feet away, Rodriguez encourages those waiting to put on waders — giant green waterproof overalls — and venture out into the water with nets and gather up aquatic life to examine. That allows children to learn about what is underwater, Rodriguez said, holding up a blue crab which had recently shed its skin.

The LICCB is funded by private donations and holds several fundraisers a year to raise money for new or replacement equipment like paddles and life vests. The group owns about 20 kayaks, which are stored in an old meat locker — in space donated for the purpose by the landowner, Plaxerol.

Volunteers paddle the kayaks from the boathouse about two miles away to Hallett's Cove on Sunday mornings, and

Free kayaking

When: Most Sundays from 1-5 p.m., weather permitting
Where: Hallett's Cove, 31st Avenue and Vernon Boulevard, L.I.C.



Paddlers participating in the Long Island City Community Boathouse's kayaking program traverse the East River.

(photo by PJ Smith)

then paddle back and lock up the boats at the end of the day.

There is no fixed number of volunteers, no membership dues, and no set work schedule at the LICCB. "We don't keep a list. It takes a minimum of six to eight people to make this event happen, and normally we have enough," Gruber said. "There's no school for this. It's on-the-job training. Yeah, we have our chaotic moments."

Gruber added that he often tries to recruit regular kayakers. "The more we see you, the more we try to make a volunteer out of you," he said.

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qboro COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Italian Charities of America, 83-20 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, will hold Saturday dances on Aug. 8 and 22 from 8 p.m.-midnight. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Music by Jean and Joe.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Cedarhurst BID announces the 21st annual **Summer Sidewalk Sale** on Thursday, Aug. 6 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (rain date is Friday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.). It provides an opportunity for merchants to showcase their products and services outdoors. Over 60 businesses and restaurants are expected to participate and approximately 10,000 shoppers will attend. For information, contact Ava Gold Ziegler, executive director, at info@shopcedarhurst.com.

Join **Queens Botanical Garden**, 43-50 Main St., Flushing, environmental educators on Saturday, Aug. 8 at noon, as they follow the full moon of the month for gardening demonstrations, tours and drop-in activities. Suggested donation is \$5.

The annual **Kiwanis Myrtle Avenue Street Festival** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Myrtle Avenue between Forest Avenue and Fresh Pond Road. This event is sponsored by the Glendale Kiwanis Club. Free. For information, call Joe at (516) 622-6758.

Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston, will hold a tricky tray social fundraiser on Sunday, Aug. 9 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person. Your admission gives you one sheet of 25 individual prizes. Pre-register by calling (718) 229-4000.

The **Federazione Italo-Americana** will sponsor a street festival Aug. 13-16 on Fresh Pond Road, between Woodbine and Menahan streets. Hours are, Thursday-Saturday, from 5:30-11:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 2-11:30 p.m. For information, call (718) 366-9077.

Jamaica Farmers Market will be held on Fridays and Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. rain or shine from now through Nov. 14 at 160th Street off Jamaica Avenue.

NY Hall of Science Farmers Market will be held on Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. rain or shine now through Nov. 15 at 111th Street and 48th Avenue in Corona.

Grace Episcopal Church, 14-15 Clintonville St., Whitestone, now has a food pantry open every Friday from 10-11 a.m. Call (718) 767-6305. All are welcome.

The Myrtle Avenue BID, the RLDC and CENYC will sponsor the Youth Market/Green Farmers Market every Saturday now through Oct. 31 at Ridgewood **Memorial Triangle** at Myrtle and Cypress avenues from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Family Cook Production's demonstrations will be held on Aug. 8, 22 and Sept. 12. If Farmers Market sells out before 4 p.m., it will close early.

FOR KIDS

The **Central Astoria Local Development Coalition** presents: 2009 Summer Fun Children's Series featuring performances by Dance Around the World on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at Athens Square Park, 30th Avenue and 30th Street; and on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at Dutch Kills Playground, 36th Avenue and Crescent Street. Both performances will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Children ages 8-12 learn about the environment through studies and tests that can be done with simple household supplies on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at **Alley Pond Environmental Center**,

228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston. Cost is \$15 for member, \$19 for nonmembers.

Squeaky Clean, a musical group that puts on programs for children, will perform on Sunday, Aug. 9 at **Alley Pond Park**, Springfield Boulevard near 76th Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Also, storytelling at Thursday, Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. Enjoy storytelling of children's books and a fun craft project. For children 10 and younger.

Free tennis lessons for children 5-16 now through Aug. 17 at the following Queens parks: Flushing Meadows, Cunningham, Forest, Brookville, Alley Pond Tennis Center, Astoria, Kissena, Baisley, Flushing Memorial and Juniper Valley. For information, call (718) 760-6999.

HEALTH

The **Forest Hills Jewish Center**, 106-06 Queens Blvd., will hold a blood drive on Monday, Aug. 10 from 5-9 p.m. in the Heller Ballroom. Schedule your appointment at NYbloodcenter.org.

Clergy United for Community Empowerment offers an infant mortality reduction initiative program, free, including parent skills building, crib care, breast feeding education, health education, nutritional information/education, referral for HIV testing (bloodless method), workshops, and women support groups, at 89-31 161st St., 10th floor, Jamaica. For information, call (718) 297-0720.

MEETINGS

Come to "Adoption Today," a two-hour information meeting presented free of charge by **Family Focus Adoption Services** on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 10 a.m. or Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. at 54-40 Little Neck Parkway, Suite 4, Little Neck. No reservations necessary.

You Gotta Believe, an adoption agency, offers free classes for the public to learn more about adopting an older child every Sunday at 4 p.m. at **Little Flower Children's Services**, 89-12 162nd St. For information, call (718) 372-3003. The next classes will be held on Aug. 9 and 16.

The **Southeast Queens Camera Club** will be conducting training sessions on How to Make Great Photos Using Adobe Photoshop Elements 7 on Tuesdays, Aug. 11, 18 and 25 from 7-9 p.m. at Roy Wilkins Park Family Center, 177-01 Baisley Blvd., 2nd floor, Jamaica. Free to members of PFLI clubs, \$5 per session for others, can be applied toward membership in SEQCC. For information, visit seqcc.org or call (718) 723-9423.

Best Female Friends will meet at the Shalimar Diner, 63-68 63rd Drive, Rego Park, on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. For information and reservations, call Pat at (516) 835-1433.

LISTING INFORMATION

Items for the Community Calendar must be sent two weeks before the date of the event. Listings should be typed, from a nonprofit organization, either free or moderately priced, and be open to the public. Keep the information to one paragraph. Because of the large number of requests for the free calendar listings, we cannot include every event submitted. Send to: Queens Chronicle, Community Calendar, P.O. Box 74-7769, Rego Park, NY 11374, fax to (718) 205-0150.

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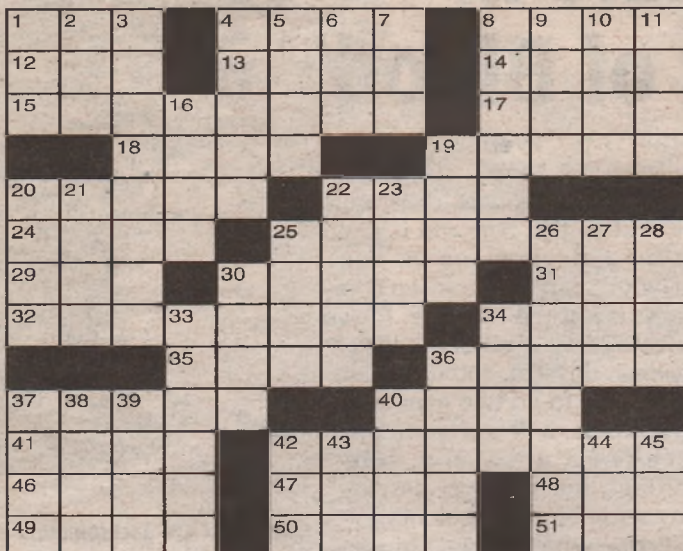
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King Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Spasm
4 Greenish-blue
8 - Bader Ginsburg
12 Historic time
13 Mandlikova of tennis
14 Birthright barterer
15 Gilligan, notably
17 Immediately upcoming
18 Veer
19 Bullwinkle's foe
20 Emulate da Vinci
22 Sketch
24 Shrek is one
25 Us
29 25-Across, e.g.
30 Corridors
31 Lubricant
32 Courtroom punishment
34 They give a hoot
35 Forest trek
36 Breathlessness?
37 Bottom point
40 Detail, for short
41 Out of the storm
42 Unable to show versatility
46 Czech or Pole
47 Session with a shrink
48 Vast expanse
49 Stevenson villain



- 50 Make - meet
51 X rating?

DOWN

- 1 Sleuth, for short
2 A Gershwin brother
3 Rigid
4 Graph
5 Exhibit ennui
6 Literary collection
7 Aye undoer
8 Fame
9 Addict
10 Urban transport
11 Shacks

- 16 Melody
19 Ovine vocabulary
20 Spacecraft compartments
21 Chills and fever
22 "La - Vita"
23 Legislation
25 Tug hard
26 Sad
27 Marathon fraction
28 "Born Free" lioness
30 Estate recipient
33 Rob

- 34 Mostly Mideastern cartel
36 Mimics
37 Doggerel Ogden
38 Partner in crime
39 Out of play
40 Tater
42 Commonest English word
43 Thither
44 Witness
45 Erstwhile M&M's hue

Answers at right

Woodside harmonica player

continued from page 25

UN's 60th anniversary concert in the General Assembly Hall.

Here in the city, He played at a 2007 Mets pre-game show at Shea Stadium and performed and taught in Central Park at last year's Make Music New York city-wide concert series.

His daughter, Jenny, a 26-year-old mechanical engineer, has also performed on stage, playing the keyboard and piano alongside her talented dad.

"My dad has always been my idol in life," Jenny He said. "His devotion and dedication in playing harmonica inspired me in many aspects."

Although Jia-Yi He may still be better known internationally for his musical prowess, he has not escaped the attention of local media outlets. He and his daughter were interviewed on News 12 Long Island's morning show in 2003 and profiled on Queens Public Television in 2004, and their pictures were featured on the cover of the QPTV Program Guide.

The guide compared He's work to the harmonica wizardry of Larry Adler, "who could make the harmonica sound like a full symphony orchestra."

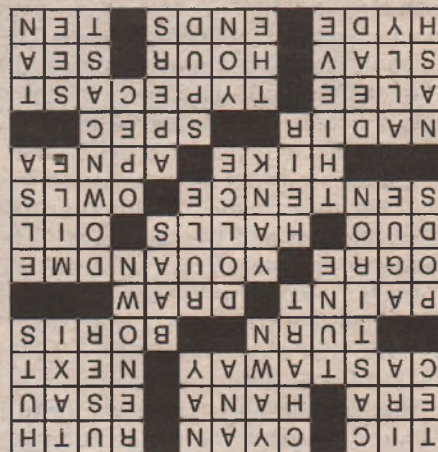
Despite his worldwide success playing harmonica, He says his instrument does not get the respect it deserves. "People think the harmonica is a toy," he

explained. "They don't view it as a serious instrument."

To move beyond the "toy" image, the master from Woodside takes part in an annual convention of harmonica players of all skill levels across the world, who gather to play, network, perfect their styles and have fun. He is attending the upcoming convention in Sacramento, Calif. from August 11 to August 15.

At past conventions, He has performed classical works such as "Romanian Rhapsody," "Rhapsody in Blue" and the super-fast interlude "Flight of the Bumblebee."

Crossword Answers



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Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson stars in the new DVD film 'Streets of Blood'

by Lloyd Carroll
qboro Contributor

Jamaica native Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson is hoping to follow in the steps of such fellow hip-hop artists as Will Smith, Ice T, Ice Cube, and St. Albans' own LL Cool J, who have achieved success in the world of acting.

Jackson, who has had supporting roles in a variety of films such as "Righteous Kill," "Date Movie" and "Fantastic Four," as well as having starred in the box office bomb "Get Rich Or Die Tryin'," is back co-starring in a new release, "Streets Of Blood."

Don't check your movie listings for "Street Of Blood" because it is available only on DVD. These days the stigma attached to movies that bypass theatrical release is not as great as it once was because of the combination of fewer theaters and the success of such mail-order operations as Netflix. "Streets Of Blood" is the classic "action first, plausible script possibly second" B-movie that used to play at the sadly defunct UA Quartet in Flushing.

The film takes place in New Orleans six months after the devastation of

Hurricane Katrina. Director Charles Winkler makes good use of stock footage that contains the somber pronouncement of former President George W. Bush that it will probably take years to rebuild the city. Winkler, to his credit, filmed the entire movie in New Orleans at such landmarks as Canal Street, the French Quarter, Jackson Square, the St. Charles Avenue trolley and the Mississippi River, which are visible throughout "Streets Of Blood."

The movie paints 2006 New Orleans as a lawless hell that is barely above water. Abandoned schools, boarded-up homes, and FEMA trailers are used as drug dens and houses of prostitution. Trying to instill some sense of law and order in the Big Easy is maverick detective Andy Devereaux (Val Kilmer) and his partner Stan Green (Jackson). Also helping them out on the New Orleans Police Department are fellow officers Pepe (Jose Pablo Cantillo) and his red-neck partner, Barney (Brian Presley).

As in the grand tradition of New Orleans-themed movies, the cops are assumed to be on the take until proven

otherwise. Even the nominal heroes are deeply flawed. We don't know who to root for or against in this film and it is not because of a tight, on-the-edge-of-your seat script. In fact, my guess is just the opposite. I have a feeling that most of the bullets flying in this film, and it is nearly impossible to go two minutes in the movie without someone meeting a grisly end, tore through the script to destroy any sense of plot coherency.

From what I was able to deduce, there is a three-way battle going on between the NOPD, the FBI, which does not trust the police and wants to run things their way, and a potent drug lord, Fernando Chamorro (Luis Rolon, doing a fine impression of Al Pacino's Tony Manero from 1982's "Scarface.")

Jackson acquits himself fairly well as a narcotics cop, which is ironic since he has admitted to having been a drug dealer in Queens growing up, and he is smart enough not to try to push a New Orleans accent on us. The same sadly

Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson stars in "Streets of Blood."

(courtesy Sue Procko Public Relations)



cannot be said for such early '90s Hollywood leading actors and heartthrobs as Val Kilmer and Sharon Stone — here playing a police psychologist whose scenes have no bearing on the plot — who speak with an indecipherable Cajun lilt. It is clear that Kilmer and Stone are just here to grab a paycheck.

"Streets Of Blood" is a truly awful film. It does not, however, fall into the genre of "being so bad that it is actually good." Save your Netflix choices for something better.



SPORTS BEAT

Defending Omar

by Lloyd Carroll
Chronicle Contributor

Mets General Manager Omar Minaya, who grew up in Corona and graduated from Newtown High School, is one of the most likable and capable sports executives you'll ever find. That's why it was so surprising that he lashed out at Adam Rubin, the Mets beat writer for the Daily News, at a Citi Field press conference last Monday, at which Minaya announced the dismissal of Tony Bernazard as Mets vice president of player development.

Minaya, clearly distraught at having to fire a dear friend, took three days to face the media and issue a public apology. I have a strong hunch that the time lag was not his choosing.

I asked him when he realized he had made a mistake, and he quickly answered, "Three seconds after I said his name at the press conference!" When I mentioned that he could have nipped the problem in the bud by apologizing at the strange impromptu briefing he and Mets Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wilpon held on Monday, two hours after the problem occurred, he simply shrugged his shoulders.

After observing the fallout from Monday's disastrous events, Wilpon met with the media on the steps of the Mets dugout a few hours before the start of Tuesday's game with the Rockies. He issued a full apology to Adam Rubin on behalf of the Mets organization and reiterated that Minaya remains the Mets GM despite his unfortunate statement.

When I asked Wilpon why he and Minaya didn't apologize on Monday in the press box, he replied, "I wanted to wait 24 hours. I had to

speak with Uncle Saul and Fred," meaning team President Saul Katz and owner Fred Wilpon, his father. The fact that Jeff Wilpon could not take it upon himself to correct such an obvious snafu on the spot speaks volumes.

On Wednesday, Minaya expressed his regrets to Rubin, who graciously accepted the apology — though a number of his fellow members of the Baseball Writers Association of America, most notably his Daily News colleague Bill Madden, questioned the sincerity of the apology. Even those writing for the News' competitors jumped on Minaya and started questioning his competency as GM.

It's no secret that many daily papers which haven't outright folded have laid off sportswriters to save money in tough times. That's certainly had a deleterious effect on the BBWAA, which only allows those writing for dailies to join its ranks, so I guess it's not surprising that its members tried to flex what muscle they have left by going after Minaya after he attacked one of their own.

Yes, I have disagreed with some of Minaya's moves, such as his giveaway of catcher Ramon Castro and signing of enigmatic pitcher Oliver Perez to a long-term contract, but for the most part he's done a very good job. His last deal, giving up Ryan Church for Jeff Francoeur, seems to be working out. And don't forget that he got free agents Pedro Martinez and Carlos Beltran in 2005, as well as first baseman Carlos Delgado and a pitcher named Johan Santana.

Frustrated fans and the BBWAA shouldn't try to rewrite Minaya's history.

I HAVE OFTEN WALKED King of the hill — Maspeth's Asheld house

by Ron Marzlock
Chronicle Contributor

The Asheld home in the heart of Maspeth may have been the only house there — or anywhere in Queens — that you had to climb a mountain of dirt to get into.

James Asheld Jr., a cable splicer, lived with his widowed mother, Pauline, at 68-24 Clinton Ave. off 69th Street for many years. Their house was 19.5 by 110 feet with a 15-by-38-foot empty lot adjoining it. When the city opened up the street to the public,

workers left a mountain of dirt at their doorstep because the grade of the house was much higher than the street. It was there for decades. The Ashelds built a makeshift staircase just to get up to their front door and fought the city for relief, eventually reaching a settlement.

After settling with the city, the Ashelds moved away. Eventually Maspeth Federal Savings bought the property, tore down the house and leveled the site. Today it's the bank's big parking lot.



The Asheld house on Clinton Avenue, looking west at 69th Street in June 1942.



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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.
NAME: 30-50 21st STREET LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/12/09. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, c/o Criterion Group LLC, 35-11 36th Street, 3rd Floor, Long Island City, New York 11106. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Manhattan Music & Art, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/26/09. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, Attn: Ying Feng, Member, 41-41 43rd Street, #D1, Sunnyside, NY 11104. Purpose: private and non-degree granting instruction of music and art education to students who have an aptitude for music or art pursuant to the consent of the Dept. of Education.

J & J Dental Lab LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Sec of State (SSNY) on 05/29/09. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 147-15 45th Avenue Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: TARIKA PROPERTIES, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/22/2009. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7612 57th Road, Middle Village, NY 11379. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of CPMI Management LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/10/09. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Adrienne Dresevic, Esq., The Health Law Partners, P.C., 29566 Northwestern Hwy., #200, Southfield, MI 48034. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: SAMPAGUITA, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 7/24/09. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 90-65 208th St., Queens Village, NY 11428. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Gramercy Information Technology, LLC. Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 5/21/09. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 136-20 38th Ave., Ste. 3C, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: Higgins Marketing LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/19/09. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 64-52G 186th Lane, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Index No.: 14395/08
Date of Filing: July 13, 2009
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF QUEENS
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,
-against-
MUNNI MANNAN, if living, or if either or all be dead, their wives, husbands, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said MUNNI MANNAN by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the respective husbands, wives, widows or widowers of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to plaintiff; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; STATE OF NEW YORK; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises, Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service of this summons is made by delivery upon you personally within this state, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable Janice A. Taylor of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on June 10, 2009, and filed with supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens, State of New York.

The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by MUNNI MANNAN to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. in the principal amount of \$617,500.00, which mortgage was recorded in Queens County, State of New York, on December 10, 2007, in CRFN 2007000604225.

Said premises being known as and by 2435 95th Street, East Elmhurst, New York 11369.

Dated: September 24, 2008
Fishkill, New York

Daniel B. Wade, Esq.
ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., Attorneys for Plaintiff
2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York 12524
(845) 897-1600
Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure

New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.



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Garage/Yard Sales

Howard Beach/Rockwood Park, Sat 8/8, 10-5, raindate Sun 8/9, 89-19 156 Ave, furn lamps, old records, gift items, something for everyone

North Flushing, Sat 8/8 & Sun 8/9, 9-5, 27-38 164 St. Housewares, furn, tools, clothes & more!

Richmond Hill, Sat 8/8, 9-3, 87-52 124 St. Furn, Noritake, electronics, plus more!

Rockwood Park, Sat 8/8, 9-3, 160-04 86 St. Clothing, housewares & more!

Woodhaven, Fri 8/7 & Sat 8/8, 9-5, 87-69 96 St, adult/kids computer games, CDs, books, records, household items. Bargains!

Block Sales

Ozone Park, Sat 8/8 and Sun 8/9, 9-3, 92nd St, betw 107 & Sutter Ave.

Tag Sales

Howard Beach, Sat 8/8, 9-4, raindate Sun 8/9, 155-09 Cohancy St. Indoor/outdoor tag sale. furn, baby items, clothing, pocket-books, bric-a-brac & much more!

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Legal Notices

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: Forest Hills Oral Surgery PLLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/27/09. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 68-63 108th St., Apt. #1D, Forest Hills, NY 11375. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: STAPD REALTY 3 LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/15/09. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 30-05 30th Avenue, Suite 275, Astoria, New York 11102. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of BOROUGH REALTY HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/26/09. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o Laundry Capital Co., LLC, 95-25 Queens Blvd., 10th Fl., Rego Park, NY 11374. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

SOMPIMARN, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC) filed with the Sec of State of NY on 5/18/09. NY Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to The LLC, 94-11 60th Ave., Rego Park, NY 11373. General purposes. Latest date to dissolve 4/30/2034.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: SoccerHead Media, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/03/2009. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to United States Corp. Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave., Suite #202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: TM DESIGN NY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/05/2009. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 3070 48 St., Apt. 1B, Astoria, NY 11103. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE

Please take notice that the court appointed guardian is offering for sale real property at 88-15 102 Street, Woodhaven, NY 11418, Block 5561, Lot 23, sale terms no contingencies, "as is" condition. Submit written offers to broker at tel: 917-806-5350.

Notice of Formation of H & J ZHOU PROPERTIES LLC, a limited liability company. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/24/09. Office located in Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of process served against the LLC to c/o THE LLC, 147-44 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: SHARON DE JESUS, NP IN PSYCHIATRY, BC, PLLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/22/2009. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 3329 Bruckner Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10461. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

CRESCENT HOLDING ASSOCIATES LLC. Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/22/08. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 23-22 30th Rd., Apt. 11D, Astoria, NY 11102. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of RSC Tax & Accounting Services LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/16/09. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Rajinder Chawla, 138-15 Franklin Avenue, Apt. 415, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: Queens Accounting, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/22/2009. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 61-15 97th Street, #2C, Rego Park, NY 11374. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: PIPETTA 66-11 LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/26/08. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 66-11 Myrtle Avenue, Woodside, New York 11385. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: SC ONE, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/20/09. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 244-25 130th Ave., Rosedale, NY 11422. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1225530 for on premises beer & wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer and wine at BOUN GELATO AND EURO BAR OF NY CORP. under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 74-02 ELIOT AVENUE, MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379 for on-premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of limited liability company name: 83-08 267th STREET, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/20/2009. Office location is Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 267-04 83rd Avenue, Floral Park, NY 11004. The general purpose: For any lawful purpose.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE-SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF QUEENS - BANKUNITED, FSB Plaintiff, against THE HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK RUGGIERO, SR. A/K/A FRANK RUGGIERO, if living, and if they be dead any and all other persons, who may claim as devisees, distributees, legal representatives and successors in interest of said defendants, all of whom and whose places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE#12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, Defendants Index no. 29496/08 Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial site of the real property. To the above named Defendants-YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE. YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. You must respond by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the Plaintiff (Mortgage Company) and filing the answer with the court. HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE; New York State law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about such promises. The state encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are Government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-226-5697 or visit the department's website at: HYPERLINK "http://www.banking.state.ny.us/" http://www.banking.state.ny.us/. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies. The Banking department shall post on its website or otherwise make readily available the name and contact information of government agencies or non-profit organizations that may be contacted for information about the foreclosure process, including maintaining a toll-free help-line to disseminate the information required by this section. We are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Jaime A. Rios filed on June 22, 2009. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage recorded on April 4, 2007 in CRFN: 2007000172418 covering the premises known as 84-30 109th Avenue, Ozone Park, NY Situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York located at Block 9142 Lot 15. Dated: April 22, 2009 Berkman, Henocho, Peterson & Peddy, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff, By: Gena Goldberger, Esq. 100 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530 (516) 222-6200.



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Apts. For Rent

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917-453-9927

HOWARD BEACH
• 1BR \$800-\$1,100
• 2BRs. . . . \$1,200-\$1,400
• 3BRs, EIK \$1,400-\$1,600

THE OLD SIDE
• 3 BRs w/Deck. . . \$1,550

CLOVERDALE REALTY
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Briarwood, lg 3 BR, LR, FDR, EIK, encl porch, 2 fl, all new kit & bath, freshly painted, walk to trains & shopping, \$1,700/mo. Connexion I.R.E. 917-270-0086

Howard Beach, 1 BR, close to trans, \$975/mo, util incl. Call owner, 917-697-4033

Howard Beach, 1 BR, walk-in, new kit, washer, \$1,200/mo. 2 BR walk-in, DR, \$1,400/mo incl all. Agent 917-755-9800

Apts. For Rent

Howard Beach, walk-in 1 BR, no pets/smoking, \$1,400/mo, incl G&E, 1 mo rent & sec. Owner 718-845-0019

Howard Beach/Lindenwood, 2 BR apt, new EIK/bath, LR/DR combo, new oak fls, \$1,500/mo, 347-675-2141

Howard Beach/Lindenwood, 3 BRs, 2 baths, mint move-in cond, fully carpeted, freshly painted, refs/credit ck, \$1,500/mo. Call owner, 718-848-2704

Howard Beach/Lindenwood, xtra lg 3 1/2 rooms, 1 BR hi-rise condo, \$1,200/mo. Call FRED @ Weichert Realtors, 516-353-1941

Lindenwood, exclusive agent for studios & 1 BR apts, absentee L/L. Call Joe Trotta, Broker @ 718-843-3333

Middle Village, 2 BRs, hardwood flrs, sunny, completely renov, \$1,380/mo, no fee. Call owner, 646-637-2266

Middle Village, 3 BRs, LR, EIK, 2 fl, very lg rms, \$1,500/mo. Owner 917-807-7342/917-807-7338

Old Howard Beach, 3 BRs, LR, DR, EIK, no pets, move-in cond, \$1,500/mo. Owner 718-641-6062

Ozone Park, 1 fl, 1 BR, lg LR, elec not incl, no pets, yard avail, \$1,000/mo. Call owner, 917-673-5216

Apt For Sale

HOWARD BEACH LINDENWOOD
2 BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APTS FOR SALE
• 3 BRs, LR, EIK, Bath, 2 Storage Rooms, Asking \$185K.
• 2 BRs, LR, DR, EIK, Bath, Asking \$169K
Call Glenda Inestroza 646-325-3627

Rooms For Rent

South Ozone Park, large furnished rm for rent in pvt home, share bath, single working person, \$500/m, sec, refs, 718-843-7216

Co-ops For Sale

Hi-rise, custom/unique (as large as a house) co-op, 3/4 BRs, 3 full baths, 18 ft terr, parquet wood fls, 1300 sq ft, view this beautiful co-op, asking \$299K. Connexion I.R.E. 718-845-1136

Howard Beach/Lindenwood, 3 1/2 room hi-rise, 1 BR w/terr, all new, \$119K. Call FRED @ Weichert Realtors, 516-353-1941

Howard Beach/Lindenwood, hi-rise, mint AAA, lg 1 BR co-op, asking \$139K. Connexion I.R.E. 718-845-1136

Vacant Lot For Sale

5,700 sq ft, M-1 zone, corner property, 100ft off Pennsylvania Ave, \$699/k. Owner financing. Call 917-687-0737

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Houses For Sale



PORT JERVIS UPSTATE, NY
1 1/2 hrs from NYC. Beautiful 3,700 sq ft legal 3 family, 6 BRs, 4 Baths, 2 1/2 Car gar w/Loft, 1/4 Acre, 4 blocks from Metro North trains. Only \$239K! Won't last! Call for Open House date.
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Call Ben or Greg 718-803-0000

Office Space For Rent

Ozone Park, office space for rent, 1 fl, walk-in, 101-08 95 St. Owner 718-845-3973

Houses For Sale

Open House

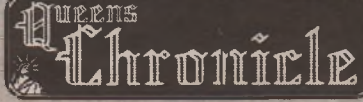
HOWARD BEACH LINDENWOOD NORTH GATE CONDO
SAT 8/8, 12-3PM
87-10 149th Ave., Apt 2K
Premium corner unit, Lg 3 BRs, 2 Full Baths, FDR, XLG LR, New Kit, Extra closet space, Alarm, Parking Space. Owner Motivated!
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ALL ADS MUST BE PREPAID BY CASH, CHECK, MONEY ORDER OR CHARGE. \$25 CHARGE FOR RETURNED CHECKS. **The Chronicle is not responsible for any mistakes in ads after the first insertion.**



(photo by Susan Voni)

Copter lands on field

Police probably didn't score any points with sleepy Maspeth residents when an NYPD helicopter made an emergency landing on a soccer field shortly before 3 a.m. on Saturday.

Police aviation officers touched down on the field to check an unspecified problem with the distressed aircraft.

A second helicopter carrying mechanics joined the crew while police cordoned off the site so they could perform safety checks on the helicopter.

No mechanical problems were reported and the helicopter was flown back to safety to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Lawyer aids in disability fight

by Jon Blau

Chronicle Reporter

A person can only work as hard as their body will allow them. And for some people, the wear and tear of everyday life can make it hard to support themselves.

Eventually, Social Security disability benefits might seem like the only option. But around 75 percent of claimants will not be granted disability after the administration's initial review.

This is where disability lawyer Stewart J. Diamond, Esq., can help. Servicing clients in all five boroughs, with offices at 111 Livingston St. in Brooklyn and 76 Hancock St. in Staten Island, Diamond offers 10 years of experience specializing in appealing denials for both SSI and SSD disability benefits.

Diamond didn't start his professional career as a disability lawyer. In fact, he came out of college and taught elementary school in Brooklyn for several years. After acquiring a law degree at Touro College campus on Long Island in 1994, Diamond would have to wait a few more years before his older brother, who had worked with the Social Security Administration, suggested he try defending those seeking disability benefits.

"He thought my personality would be conducive to that kind of law," Diamond said. "If you are successful, you are helping people."

Once initially denied by the program's strict criteria, appealing disability benefits from the Social Security Administration can be a long and arduous process. In Queens, the borough with the most time-consuming appeals process, it could be more than a year before a case is heard and a decision is made.

For example, a construction worker who has a degenerative disc ailment, who can't lift

more than 10 pounds, might be told he could get a job working behind a desk — but he doesn't qualify for Social Security disability benefits.

Enter Diamond, who approaches every prospective client with a personal touch. When someone calls his office, Diamond is the one who picks up the phone and conducts the initial interview. If he believes you have a case, he'll be the one to greet you when you visit

his offices. When he files the appeal and gets that court date, Diamond is there before the judge — with you.

Diamond reports a 90 percent victory rate for his cases. He also wants the Spanish speaking population to know "se habla Espanol."

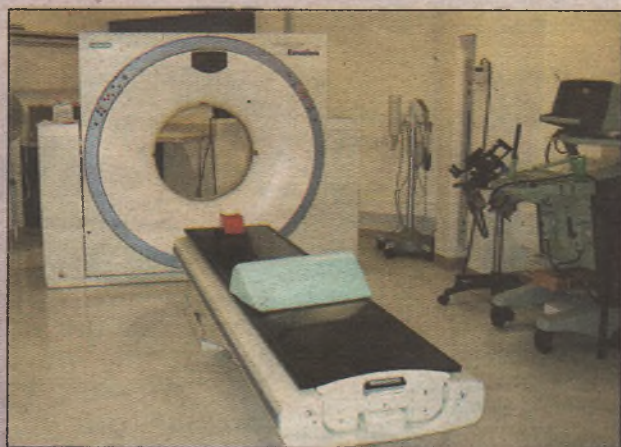
"This is what I specialize in," Diamond said, "and what you'll get here, unlike other places, is a personal approach."

Call him at 718-422-1150 for assistance. ☐



Stewart J. Diamond, Esq.

(photo by Theodore Parisienne)



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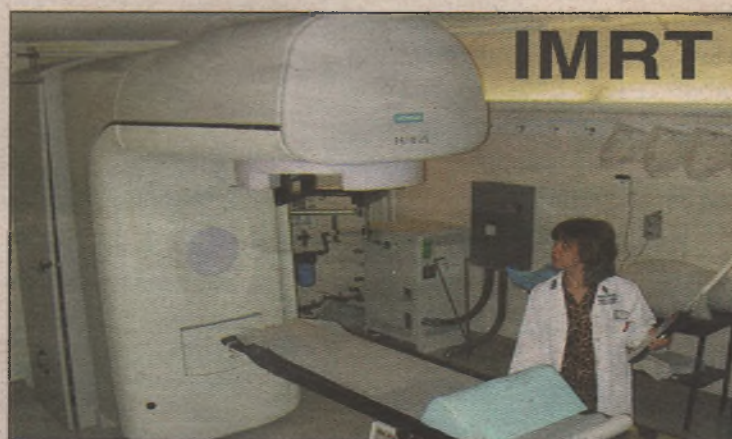
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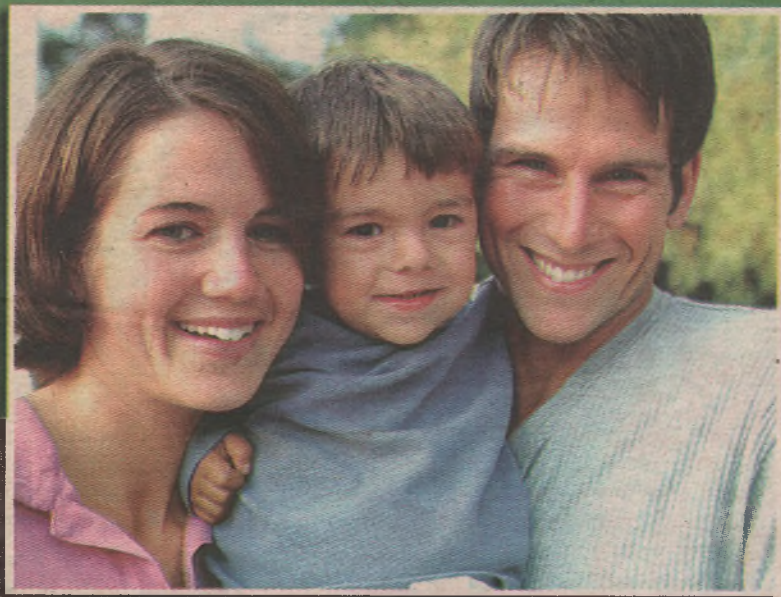
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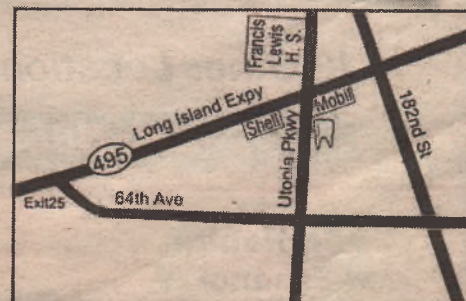
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Ridgewood, NY 11385

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Queens

**Triborough Bridge Pawn
& Jewelry LLC**

29-22A Hoyt Ave. South
(Off 31st St - Near Dunkin Donuts)
Astoria, NY 11102

(718) 204-CASH (2274)

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& Jewelers LLC**

82-02 Roosevelt Ave.
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Jackson Heights, NY 11372

(718) 803-CASH (2274)

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